



# Swedish Colonial News

Volume I, Number 6

Fall, 1992

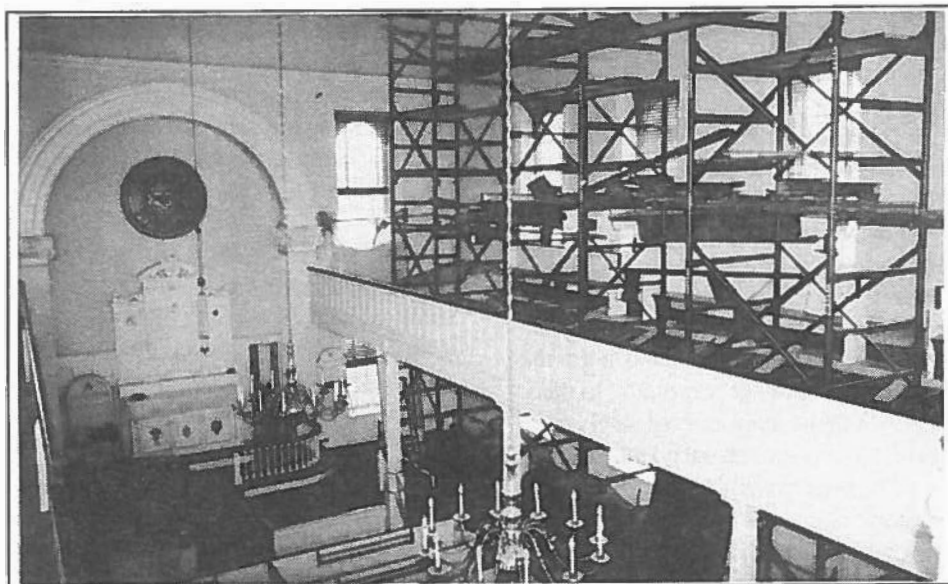
## GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE

I am humbled by the response of the membership during my illness and subsequent treatment. I wish to thank each of you for your well-wishes and kind thoughts and prayers. It was moving to receive your many cards and phone calls, and your interest and concern have no doubt helped my recovering process.

Dorothy and I have chosen to dedicate our retirement years to the service of others and to the community, as have many other members of the Society. And though often the effort seems weighty and overwhelming and at times even thankless, we feel that we have made a contribution to the growth and preservation of this organization that is worthy of our time and effort. It is our hope to pass on to the new officers a stronger, more vital society.

We are pleased to announce the addition of two new council members this year, distinguished community leaders: John C. Cameron, Esq. of Malvern, PA, and John Widfelt, USN (Ret.) of Haverford, PA. I was taught as a youth that, "Service is the rent we pay for the room we take up on this earth." The world is in deep need of people ready to serve. Thank you for joining our ranks.

Wallace F. Richter, Governor ❖



*Scaffolding supports the ceiling of Trinity Church in Swedesboro, NJ; funds are awaited to repair the precarious structure.*  
PHOTO: E. ROHRMAN

## HISTORIC SITE

### Swedesboro Church Endangered

Old and actively-engaged churches are rare and special, and Trinity (Old Swedes') Church in Swedesboro, NJ is very special indeed, since it is one of America's oldest functioning parishes and one of the original group of seven Swedish churches. Founded in 1703 it is most assuredly the oldest Swedish church in New Jersey—the oldest church edifice being St. Peter-St. Paul's in Perth Amboy.

Sadly the building itself is in immediate danger of collapse due to the deterioration of numerous two-hundred-year-old solid oak trusses supporting a heavy slate roof. Other debilitating factors are the continual vibrations from the traffic on the street a few feet from the front door, and possibly underground springs beneath the structure.

Shortly after Easter, 1992, the newly appointed Vicar, William O. Breedlove, (See Swedesboro Church, page 3)

## 350 YEARS AGO

### Governor Printz Leads Fourth Expedition to New Sweden

In the fall of 1642, excitement ran high in Gothenburg as Governor Johan Printz prepared to embark for New Sweden with new supplies and new settlers for the young colony. Two ships, the *Fama* and the *Swan*, carrying over 60 new settlers, finally left port on November 1, 1642, and headed out to the open sea.

This expedition, Sweden's fourth to the New World, went smoothly. By Christmas, the two ships reached Antigua, where the settlers rested and were refreshed by ample oranges and lemons. They left the island in early January and arrived in Delaware Bay at the end of the month. A fierce storm then caused some damage, especially to the *Fama*, but both ships arrived safely at Fort Christina on February 15th, 1643.

The majority of the passengers were soldiers. Others included two new priests (Johan Campanius Holm and Printz's nephew, Israel Holg Fluviander), a scribe, a gunsmith, a blacksmith, two carpenters, a glassmaker, a young nobleman (Christian Boij), three paid laborers, and five unpaid convicts.

During the trip across the ocean, only one passenger had died—Michel Olsson, who had been hired as the new provost. However, during the first two years in America, another sixteen of the newcomers died. Others, such as Governor Printz and his family and the two ministers, would eventually return to Sweden. However, seven passengers from this new expedition were to remain in America and become the progenitors of numerous descendants:

□ Lieutenant Sven Skute, later promoted to a captain by Queen Christina, came from Kronoby in present Finland. He was survived by three daughters and one son who married and raised families in

the greater Philadelphia area.

□ Soldier Anders Andersson Homman from Sollentuna, Stockholm *län*, later became a trumpeter and lived at Repaupo Creek in Gloucester County, NJ, leaving descendants who used the surname Homan.

□ Soldier Johan Gustafsson from Kinnekulle, Skaraborg *län*, settled on a plantation in Kingsessing, West Philadelphia, and was survived by nine sons and two daughters. His male descendants took the surname Justice, Justis or Justus.

□ Soldier Jonas Nilsson from Skåning hundred, Skaraborg *län*, also settled in Kingsessing, West Philadelphia, and was survived by seven sons and four daughters. His male descendants used the surname Jonasson, later shortened to Jones.

□ Soldier Jürgen Kühn from Saxony, Germany, sometimes known as Jürgen Snow-white, became a resident of Upland (Chester) and was survived by two sons and one known daughter. His descendants used the name of Keen.

□ Soldier Constantinus Grönberg from Brandenburg, Germany, settled in New Castle County, where his son Conrad Constantine had a family prominent in the early history of Wilmington's Holy Trinity Church.

□ Soldier Peter Jochimsson from Schlesvig in Holstein died in 1654, but was survived by one daughter and one son, Peter Petersson Yocum, through whom many Yocums and Yocoms later descended.

□ Anders Andersson the Finn sent from the fortress of Älvsborg as punishment for some unknown crime, was the only convict on the expedition to survive the first year in America. He later owned an extensive plantation on the Christina River and was survived by several children, including John Andersson Cock of the Holy Trinity congregation and Anna, wife of Nils Larsson Friend of Upland.

Dr. Peter S. Craig ❖

## FOREFATHERS

### Captain Israel Helm

One of the legendary leaders emerging from New Sweden was Israel Helm, originally known as Israel Åkesson.

In 1749, Israel Helm's youngest son told Peter Kalm that his father had come to New Sweden at the age of 12 with Governor Printz in 1642-43 and lived in the Governor's household. Records at the Swedish National Archives give a slightly different story: they show that Israel Åkesson came to New Sweden in 1641 on the *Charitas*, with his father, musketeer Åke Israelsson from Stockholm. His father died at sea, one month before the *Charitas* reached New Sweden, and young Israel was cared for by the Company as an orphan. Undoubtedly, he became a ward of Governor Printz after his arrival in 1643.

On 1 March, 1648, after Israel became 18, he was named a soldier by Governor Printz and served in this capacity until he returned to Sweden with the governor in 1653. Two years later, Israel Åkesson went to New Sweden a second time on the *Mercurius* and apparently resided on Tinicum Island. When Armegot Printz sold this island to Joost de la Grange in 1662, Israel returned to Europe in her company. Over the next twelve months he appears to have married and to have helped recruit more Finnish Swedes as settlers for the City of Amsterdam, which then controlled the Delaware River. Israel next appears in Delaware River records in the fall of 1663 when he arrived by a Dutch ship at present New Castle in the company of 32 new Finnish settlers. The Dutch governor rewarded him by granting him a monopoly on the fur trade in present Pennsylvania and by naming him a "High Councillor," qualifying him to sit on the Swedes' Upland court.

Israel, who adopted the surname Helm (from *hjälm*, meaning "helmet" in Swedish) served continuously as a justice on the Upland court from 1663 to 1681, and acquired the title of Captain, a rank usually reserved for those who served as captain in the Swedish militia.

Through his Indian trading, Israel Helm also became proficient in the Indian dialects and was in frequent demand to negotiate treaties with the Indians. As a reward, Governor Andros of New York granted him land near Burlington Island in 1677. Helm later surrendered this land to William Penn for his "Pennsbury" estate in exchange for other land on the Brandywine River.

After his return to America in 1663, Helm's principal residences were at Calcon Hook (Lower Darby) and Upland (Chester). By 1677, however, he had moved to Gloucester County, NJ, where he resided on Clonmell Creek until his death in the winter of 1701-02. He was buried next to his wife in the old Swedish graveyard on Tinicum Island.

Israel Helm had three sons and five daughters:

1. Israel, Jr., born c. 1663, went to sea around 1691 and was never heard from again.

2. Helene, born c. 1665, married Peter Cock, Jr., son of Peter Larsson Cock, in 1682 and had nine children. She died at Passyunk (South Philadelphia) after 1708.

3. Maria, born in 1666, married Andrew Robeson (of Scotch birth) c. 1690 and had 11 children. She died 12 November 1716 and was buried at Gloria Dei; her husband died 19 February 1720 and was the first person known to be buried at the Swedish church in Douglassville in Berks County.

4. Another daughter, name unknown, was probably the first wife of Anders Friend, son of Nils Larsson Frände, and father of Israel Friend, of later Indian-trading fame in Maryland. She died before her father.

5. Ingeborg, born c. 1670, became the second wife of Eric Mullica after 1693 and moved with her husband and youngest stepchildren to the Mullica River. She was a widow by 1704 and had no known children of her own.

6. Elisabeth, born c. 1673, married George Lawrence (English) by 1695 and had eight children. This family resided in lower Gloucester County, where she died c. 1737.

7. Hermanus, born c. 1675, married Catharine (parents not identified) and had at least 11 children. He remained on his

father's plantation, known as "Helmstadt," adding other lands, and died in November 1740.

8. Åkenus, born c. 1677, had two wives, Catharine Rambo (daughter of John Rambo and Brigitta Cock) and Elisabeth Dalbo (daughter of Olof Dalbo and Catharine Friend), and had at least 11 children. He served as a trustee of the Swedish church in Swedesboro, NJ and died in 1750 at his plantation on Raccoon Creek in Gloucester County.

*Dr. Peter S. Craig* ❖

---

*(Swedesboro Church, continued from p. 1)*

II, was told by Richard Ortega that the 1784 building was endangered when the observant structural engineer examining the steeple tower providentially noticed that seven of the eleven ancient roof trusses were no longer supporting the roof. He pointed out to the Vicar the "gaping crevices and cracks" and ominously predicted that the roof could fall in at any minute!

So the fragile building was immediately cordoned off by the authorities, and worship services were moved to the parish hall across the street.

Descendants of the original parishioners of the Raccoon (Swedesboro) parish remain within the Philadelphia area. Among early parishioners were Rambos, Helms, Cocks, Keens, Locks, Stilles Dalbos, Mattsons, Hulings, Derricksons, Hendricksons and Justis families. They and the Swedesboro church have played a significant role in the history of Gloucester County and the development of the region.

The original edifice was a log structure built in 1703 on 100 acres of church property. For decades these devout people had rowed across the Delaware River Sunday after Sunday to worship in the Lutheran churches at Christina (Wilmington, DE) and Wicaco (Philadelphia, PA). Not only was the trip arduous, but perilous as well. Now the

settlers had grown in sufficient numbers to maintain a parish of their own on the east bank of the Delaware. The records that are kept at Old Swedes' date back to 1713 and are considered "one of the most authentic and complete sources of historic information in the State of New Jersey."

During the Revolution, the British, believing the church to be a meeting place for local rebels, set fire to the structure, making it necessary to abandon the log church. In 1784, the Swedish Pastor, Nils Collin, designed a new church and directed the building of the present structure, even laying "cold & wet" bricks himself, which laid him up with rheumatism for months. Two years after the dedication, the parish passed from the jurisdiction of the Lutherans to that of the Protestant Episcopal Church and has continued on that basis until this day. It may be interesting to note that later Pastor Collin became the pastor of Gloria Dei Church in Philadelphia, where Benjamin Franklin frequented his services. Collin was summoned to Franklin's side as he lay dying.

The current structural engineer states in his report that he has never seen another truss from this period like the ones used in the church of conjoinery methods. The structural framework from 1784 has been described as "having pegged mortise-and-tenon joints fitted with forged iron straps on both sides of the members, secured to the timbers with iron through-bolts that have a round head at one end and a slot and a key at the other."

We learned from Father Breedlove that Trinity Church will require at least \$500,000 to reinforce the building structure as soon as possible so that it is preserved and functional again.

From time to time we have visited the church in Swedesboro and found it to have very active and concerned parishioners, devoting care and energy in reaching out to everyone around Swedesboro and is now exploring cooperative ministries and the development of parish life and Christian education. In addition, the parishioners and their vestry always appeared to be very much aware of the church's historic roots

*(See Swedesboro Church, p. 4)*

(Swedesboro Church, continued from p. 3)

in the peaceful rural community, ably pointing out the numerous and occasionally hidden graves of the descendants of the original Swedish settlers in the churchyard.

The Vicar forwarded a written report about the current condition of the church building and the parish's most urgent needs to shore up the structure safely and, at the same time, to keep all the existing outreach programs functioning. He also indicated that the NJ State Historic Building Trust might provide a 40% match to funds raised by Trinity. A fundraiser has been hired to help with this effort.

Because of its historic significance to the Swedish community Mrs. Auten, widow of the long-term Trinity rector, and Dr. Esther Chilstrom-Meixner, an active member of VASA and a Life member of SCS, have been contacting various Swedish organizations such as ours, to raise money and to help save the church building.

Many of us have visited or worshipped at Trinity (Old Swedes') Church and realize it would be tragic if we allow this beautiful church to crumble. Accordingly, we urge our members to help by making a tax-deductible contribution, or to dedicate your monthly tithe to this precious monument to early Swedish colonial history.

ADDRESS:

Trinity Episcopal Church  
208 Kings Highway  
Swedesboro, NJ 08085

Brian Daly ❖

#### SUBMISSION OF MATERIAL FOR THE NEWSLETTER

Material submitted for publication should be typed, double spaced and not exceed 500 words. Black and white photos are best, but clear color photos can be used. Captions for photo identification should be included, not written on the front or back of the print. Include a return address and phone number. Send to—NEWSLETTER

Swedish Colonial Society  
1300 Locust Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Three of the Electronic Exchange teachers meet at Printz Park, Essington, PA to plan festivities. From left to right: Linda Turk, Samuel Mickle School, NJ; Tom Jones, Upper Pittsgrove School, NJ; Elaine Myers, Samuel Mickle School, NJ  
PHOTO: BETH LINNERSON-DALY



## EDUCATION

### Kids to Celebrate

On June 11th of 1993 a commemorative celebration for kids is planned in Printz Park on the banks of the Delaware in Essington, PA. Electronic Exchange students who have been communicating with Sweden for the last two years will be bussed to the site or parade from the local school: approximately 800 students are involved. A small group of Swedish children and their teachers who are part of the exchange will make their first trip to America to join us in this celebration.

A re-enactment is planned with boats, direct descendant children, Indian and Swedish dancing, and, of course, Johan

Printz landing at the site. Since it is unlikely that any of the Royal Family will be present for the festivities, we plan to video tape the ceremony and send it to the Crown Princess.

As many direct descendant children as we can certify will be invited to participate. These children, while not subjects of the crown, had ancestors who were. We hope to locate as many as fifty children who are direct descendants of the New Sweden Colony settlers.

Beth Linnerson-Daly ❖

### Direct Descendants

We have been looking forward to 1993 for several years, anticipating a variety of ways with which we can make the public aware that this year marks the real beginnings of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania—the Swedish beginnings.

One of the ways to celebrate is by holding family reunions, and we hope numerous reunions are being planned. A special location to consider for your reunion is the American Swedish Historical Museum in Philadelphia. The Museum is well worth a visit at any time, but is a dis-

tinct plus as a setting for a New Sweden reunion. The museum is filled with stunning exhibits, and several of the permanent ones are focused on the Colony of New Sweden.

The stately Swedish manor house is located in a large city park with many picnic tables. In addition, the Museum has recently installed a new kitchen that adjoins a large dining room, and both are available for either pot-luck parties or for catered events. Please contact the ASHM for details: (215) 389-1776.

## HISTORICAL NOTES

### The "Swedish Nation" on the Delaware, 1655-1681

One of the best kept secrets that will not be found in most history books is the "Swedish Nation" that existed on the Delaware between the surrender of New Sweden in 1655 and the establishment of Pennsylvania in 1681.

Various known as the "Swedish and Finnish Nation," the "Swedish Nation," the "up-river Swedes," or simply as "Upland County," this self-governing group of Scandinavian settlers thrived for twenty-five years without interference. At its height, it governed not only all white settlers in present Pennsylvania, but also present Delaware north of the Christina River and West Jersey between Oldmans Creek on the south and present Palmyra in Burlington County.

By a strange twist of history, this thriving Swedish nation owed its creation to Governor Peter Stuyvesant of New Netherlands. After overpowering New Sweden in September, 1655, Stuyvesant startled Governor John Rising by offering to return the colony to him. Stuyvesant wanted to retain Fort Casimir (present New Castle) and the area south of the Christina River, but he was willing to restore the boundaries as they existed in Governor Printz's time.

Governor Rising refused the offer. Preparing to return to Sweden, he urged the other Swedish colonists do the same. Nine-tenths of them refused. They had made their new homes in America and did not want to leave.

After Rising left the Delaware River, Peter Stuyvesant renewed his offer. The Swedes would be governed by a court of their own choosing; they would be free to continue their own church, have their own militia and officers; they would retain their land holdings and have the freedom to trade with the Indians. In return, they had to pledge loyalty to New Netherlands and have their officers approved by Stuyvesant.

The "Swedish Nation" was formally launched at a ceremony held at Fort

## BOOK REVIEW

### Book to be Published

During the coming Christmas season many friends of Sweden and Finland will be able to acquire a long-awaited Julkapp in the form of Dr. Peter Stebbins Craig's *The 1693 Census of the Swedes on the Delaware: Family Histories of the Swedish Lutheran Church Members Residing in Pennsylvania, Delaware, West New Jersey and Cecil County, MD, 1638-1693*.

The 224-page book contains a Foreword by Dr. C. A. Weslager, a lengthy Introduction and seven Chapters on the Colonial Wicaco (Philadelphia) and Crane Hook (near Wilmington) Congregations, an Appendix ("Letters to Sweden 1693"), Abbreviations for Commonly Used References, eight pages of Bibliography, an Index of Place Names, a detailed and well-referenced Index of Personal Names, and two maps by Sheila Waters of the 1693 Service Areas of the two churches.

Peter Craig, a lawyer, genealogist and the Historian of the Swedish Colonial Society, has built his book around Charles Springer's original version of the 1693 census (Ms. from Riksarkivet, Stockholm) that has never before been used by scholars. To this nucleus he has added a great number of documented details of family life in the colony from its beginnings, and how the Swedes were perceived by their neighbors. He further reviews much relevant scholarship of the last fifty years and writes in a well-articulated but clear and concise language that provides a magnificent treasure trove of solid information and valuable speculations from which the layman as well as the researcher will be drawing for years to come.

*The 1693 Census* constitutes Volume 3 of *Studies in Swedish American Genealogy*, and is being published by SAG Publications, P.O. Box 2186, Winter Park, FL 32790. The Library binding costs \$37.50 plus \$2.50 for shipping and handling.

Benkt Wennberg ❖

Casimir on the 4th of August, 1656 (the 14th of August by the Dutch calendar. On that day the sheriff Gregorius van Dyck from Göteborg appeared with four magistrates—Olof Stille from Roslagen, Sweden; Mats Hansson from Borgå, Nyland, Finland; Peter Cock from Bångsta, Södermanland, Sweden; and Peter Rambo from Hisingen near Göteborg, Sweden. All were sworn in and warned that in trading with the Indians no "strong beverages" were to be sold.

This four-member court held regular quarterly sessions at Tinicum Island at which disputes were adjudicated. The court was also the legislative body, making necessary appointments to fill other offices and responsible for maintaining friendly relations with the Indians. Monitoring their actions was Willem Beeckman, Stuyvesant's deputy stationed at old Fort Christina (which the Dutch renamed Fort Altena). Under Beeckman were up to a dozen soldiers who were available to assist the Swedish Nation, if necessary.

Such assistance was never necessary. The Swedish Nation established its own militia, whose initial officers were Sven Skute (captain), Anders Dalbo (lieutenant), and Jacob Svenson (ensign). Jöran the Finn of Crum Creek originally served as provost or court-messenger. Later that position was held by Matthias Bengtsson and Johan Danielsson.

Two factors served to increase the Swedish and Finnish population within the Swedish Nation's jurisdiction. First, several of the Scandinavian residents at Fort Casimir (New Castle), Swanwyck and Paerden Hook became disillusioned with the Dutch government and sought refuge among their own kind north of the Christina River. Second, much to the delight of the settlers who had decided to remain in America, the ship Mercurius arrived in 1656 bringing 92 new Finnish settlers from Värmland and Närke and several old-timers who had returned to Sweden in 1654, including Hendrick Huygen, Israel Helm, Jonas Nilsson, Paul Jönsson from Jämtland, Anders Svensson Bonde [Boon], Peter Meyer from Göteborg and Per Andersson (progenitor of the Longacre family).

Stuyvesant's efforts to dictate policy to the Swedish Nation were unsuccessful. Early in 1660 when preparing to make war on the Indians at Esopus (Kingston, NY), Stuyvesant tried to recruit soldiers from the Swedish Nation. They refused. He ordered the Swedes and the Finns to move to a single, fortified village. Again they refused.

After 1660, the Swedish court lost one of its four justices: Peter Rambo resigned because of pressing family problems. Within a few years, however, he returned to the court.

A ticklish standoff occurred in 1661. Catherine, the wife of pastor Lars Carlsson Lock, eloped with Jacob Jungh from Göteborg, and the Swedish court permitted Lars Lock to marry Beata Lom, the 18-year-old stepdaughter of Lars Andersson Collinus. Beeckman contended that the marriage was illegal because Stuyvesant had not approved Lock's divorce from his first wife. The Swedish Court retorted that it was none of Stuyvesant's business. Stuyvesant let the matter drop.

In May 1662 the Swedish Nation lost its court house—Armegot Printz sold Tinicum Island (except for the church) to Joost de la Grange from Leyden, so that the historic conference room at Printzhof was lost. Thereafter, the Swedish court alternated between Christina (Fort Altena) and Upland (present Chester, PA).

One of the most celebrated cases of the Swedish court was that of Jürgen Keen versus Evert Hendricksson, also known as Ivar the Finn. What began in April of 1663 as a simple case of assault led to an outpouring of complaints about Hendricksson's behavior and a decision recommending that the defendant be banned from the river. Stuyvesant agreed, but the sentence was never carried out. The Dutch West Indies Company transferred sovereignty over the Swedish nation to the City of Amsterdam, which already controlled the Delaware south of the Christina River. The City's colony was governed by Alexander d'Hinoyossa, who provided Ivan the Finn with a new home at Crane Hook. Under the encouragement of

d'Hinoyossa other Finnish families also moved to Crane Hook and a second Swedish Lutheran church was built at that location.

On the last day of 1663 (by the Swedish calendar), d'Hinoyossa summoned the Swedish magistrates with many of their Swedes and Finns living north of the Christina River and demanded that they give him an oath of allegiance, "which they unanimously refused to take until they had in writing those privileges of trade and other things which they had enjoyed under the Company's (Stuyvesant's) administration; without this they said they would be forced to leave." The Swedish Nation prevailed. Their court continued. As a token of his authority, however, d'Hinoyossa began issuing patents to the settlers north of Christina River, many of which are noted in subsequent English patents.

The same persistence of the Swedes prevailed in October 1664, when the English, under the Duke of York, overpowered the d'Hinoyossa government at Fort Amstel and renamed it New Castle. Under the surrender agreement the existing Swedish magistrates were permitted to continue their offices and jurisdictions.

Israel Helm had been added to the court in 1663. Peter Rambo rejoined the court by 1664. Peter Cock became the presiding judge when Olof Stille retired. Mats Hansson of Borgå died, Stille and Hansson were replaced by Lars Andersson Collinus, who had arrived on Örnen in 1654 and Olof Svensson, son of Sven Gunnarsson. The dates upon which the last two joined the court is unknown, but they had become sitting justices by 1673 when the Dutch temporarily regained control of the Delaware River. In 1674 the river reverted again to English rule, but the "up-river" or "Upland" court continued as before, undisturbed by the changes in the flag flying over the fort at New Castle.

In the 1670's, however, the jurisdictional boundaries of the Upland Court witnessed changes. The Upland Court met four times a year, whereas the New Castle Court met every month. This

factor, together with the addition of Dutch and English settlers north of the Christina River led to the expansion of the New Castle Court's jurisdiction northward, first to the Bought (halfway between Christina River and Naamans Creek) and then, by 1681, all the way to Naamans Creek. On the other hand when some of its settlers moved across the Delaware to West Jersey, the jurisdiction of the Upland Court followed them until, in the 1680's, independent courts were established for Burlington and Gloucester counties.

In 1676, a sixth justice was added to the Upland Court—Otto Ernest Cock. All the other justices continued: Peter Cock, Peter Rambo, Lars Andersson, and Olof Svensson.

In June of 1680 the increased influx of Englishmen brought an end to the all-Swedish Upland Court. Otto Ernest Cock became the presiding judge. Israel Helm continued on the court. Lasse Cock replaced his father, Peter Cock. But Peter Rambo, Lars Andersson and Olof Svensson were replaced by two Englishmen, Henry Jones and George Browne.

This was just a precursor of what was to happen under William Penn one year later. In the 1681-82 sessions of the Upland Court, William Markham expanded the court to ten justices, half Swedish and half English. The five Swedes were Otto Ernest Cock (no longer the chief justice), Lasse Cock, Anders Bengtsson, Sven Svensson, and James Sanderland (a Scotsman married to the daughter of Jürgen Keen).

On 12 September, 1682, the Upland Court held its last session. Thereafter it was replaced by three new county courts: Philadelphia, Chester and Bucks. Pennsylvania's first (and only) court, which Governor Printz had started at Tinicum Island almost four decades before and which remained in the control of the Swedes until 1681, passed into history.

Peter S. Craig, J.D. ❖

## New Jersey Archives Collection

In 1989 the New Jersey State Archives acquired over 80 books and research aids, sometimes rare and always pertinent to the history of the early Swedish immigration to New Jersey and the Lower Delaware Valley.

The development of this special collection was the inspiration of John Jacobson, former assistant to the Secretary of State who also organized and headed the New Sweden Commemorative Commission. The acquisition was made through a \$2,500 grant to the Archives from the Commission with funds made available through state legislation.

The materials were carefully selected by a three-person advisory team—all recognized experts in the field of Swedish immigration to the Delaware Valley—Dr. Peter Craig of the Swedish Colonial Society; the late Dr. John Anderson; and the late Ralph Turp, both former Commissioners for the New Sweden Commemorative Commission.

Karl Niederer, Chief of the Archives, said that during the past three years the collection has been used frequently by researchers, particularly those interested in historic building/site preservation and local history. The Archives' Supervisor of Reference Services, Bette Barker, also indicated that individuals used the early Swedish family genealogies and South Jersey Swedish church records often.

Members of the Swedish Colonial Society and genealogical researchers can find a broad range of materials rarely available under one roof. Peter Craig said, "that despite some important original Swedish documents missing from the collection, these records are the best single source outside of the Family History Library in Salt Lake City for family history."

The collection—Swedish Colonial History and Genealogy Reference Sources—includes books, pamphlets and microfiche, and break down into four major categories: (1) genealogical, (2) local 17th and 18th c. Swedish history, (3) 17th century Swedish

history—the Imperial Period, and (4) modern Swedish and Finnish immigration to the U.S.

The following is a list of some of the best sources for genealogical research:

### Church Records

*Records of the Friesburg Emanuel Lutheran Church, Salem County, NJ, Rev. Herman G. L. Drews, trans.*

*The Records of the Swedish Lutheran Churches at Racoon and Penn's Neck, 1713-1786, Amandus Johnson*

*Records of the Moravian Church at Oldman's Creek, Paul Minotty*

*Records of Trinity Episcopal Church (Old Swedes), Swedesboro, Gloucester County, New Jersey 1785-1975, Paul Minotty*

### Birth/Court Records

*Petitions for Guardians from the Minutes of the Salem County Orphans Courts, Stanley H. Craig*

*Early Pennsylvania Births, 1675-1875*

The collection also includes familiar authors such as Alf Åberg, Israel Acrelius, Jehu Curtis Clay, Stellan Dahlgren, Thomas Campanius Holm, Amandus Johnson, Pehr Mårtensson Lindeström, and A.A. Weslager, and, in addition, copies of the "Swedish American Historical Quarterly," 1985 to present, and the NYA SVERIGE Micro-filming Project made up of 170 microfiche.

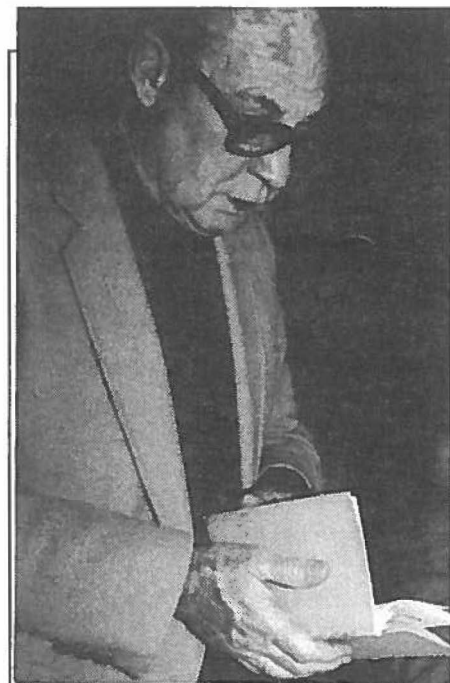
Beyond the special New Sweden collection, the State Archives have in their general collection numerous other manuscripts and microfilm useful for research: New Jersey wills between 1670 and 1900; deeds filed from 1664 to 1794; Supreme Court records and Minutes, 1681-1844; surveys from 1664- to 1950; and county deeds, mortgages, and marriage records dating from the late 1600's onward.

While the Archives will respond to mail requests for recently indexed materials, it is necessary to visit the Archives for information from unindexed collections.

For more information about the New Sweden collection, call—NJ State Archives, (609) 292-6260; the Archives

are located at 185 West State Street, CN307, Trenton, NJ 08625. The Reference Library is open to the public Tuesdays through Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Brian Daly ❖



Mike Homan of Swedesboro, NJ, direct descendant of Anders Andersson Homman, examines one of the books from the archives collection.

PHOTO: NJ STATE DEPARTMENT

## 1992 EVENTS

### Lucia Festivals—

#### December 4th & 5th

The American Swedish Historical Museum.

#### December 11th, 12th, 13th

Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church in Philadelphia. PA

#### December 13th

Holy Trinity (Old Swedes') Church in Wilmington, DE  
Trinity (Old Swedes') Church in Swedesboro, NJ

December, date unknown,  
IKEA, Plymouth Meeting, PA

## The Passing of Frances Hammond Ligget

We regret to announce the death at 90 years of age on September 18th of Frances H. Ligget, former Swedish Colonial Society Historian.

She joined our Society on February 17, 1955, sponsored by a governor of the Society, C. Colket Wilson, Jr. Frances became a recognized Forefather Member in 1987 as a descendant of Peter Nilsson Laican who arrived in this country in 1663.

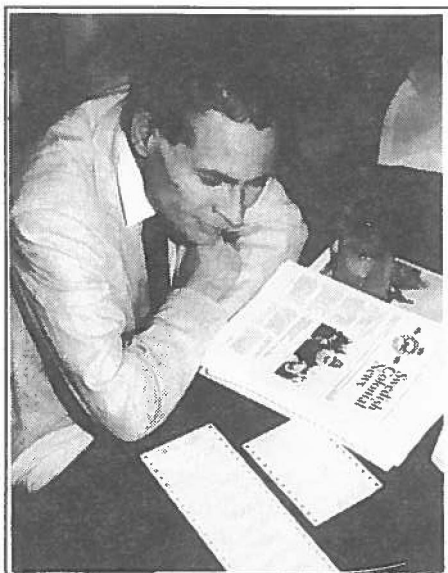
A few of us still remember watching Frances Ligget taking photos of the members at such affairs as the Swedish Landmarks Boat Tour on the Delaware, and, later, carrying the heavy scrapbook volume containing articles and prints of photos up the stairs at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. Frances was one of those people who called ill people to wish them well.

Among other Ligget contributions to our Society was a gala dinner when Frances and her gracious husband, Robert C. Ligget entertained H.R.H. Prince Bertil of Sweden upon his visit to Philadelphia.

Among her many services to society at large was the chairmanship during World War II of the Camp and Hospital Council, a division of the Red Cross. In 1974 the Pennsylvania House of Representatives gave her a citation for her civic work. For many years she allowed her beautiful, historic home, Lord Stirling's headquarters during the Revolutionary War, to be used as a meeting place for many social and genealogical societies to which she belonged, including Penn's Grant Chapter of the Colonial Dames XVII Century, of which she was a charter member. In 1987 she was given the Women of Achievement Award for compiling records of interviews with descendants of the settlers of the Great Valley area.

Frances Ligget's active and inspirational work for our Society and other organizations has left a permanent memorial to her.

*Alice & Carl Lindborg ❖*



*The late Robert Mahan working with the Publication Committee on the spring issue.*

PHOTO: BETH LINNERSON-DALY

## Robert Scott Rhodes Mahan

Robert Mahan was an remarkable person well known to many members of the Swedish Colonial Society. Born in Delaware County, Pennsylvania, Robert's family traces its ancestry back to numerous early settlers in the greater Philadelphia area.

The most recent ancestor to arrive here in the mid-19th century was Samuel Rhodes, who left Yorkshire, England, with my ancestor, Abraham Blakeley. They both set up their textile mills in present Chester, PA. Robert Mahan was also related to the famous American naval officer, Captain Alfred Thayer Mahan, author of the seminal work, The Influence of Sea Power upon History.

Robert attended the University of Miami and lived most of his adult life in Europe and Asia. He wrote articles on travel and was a member of the Foreign Correspondents' Club in Bangkok, Thailand. He was also an experienced travel guide.

One facet of Robert's life that particularly impressed me was his facility with language: he was fluent in at least 15 languages and dialects, and he could

as easily launch into Italian at a dinner party as to help a lost tourist by speaking his native Urdu.

During his ten year stay in India Robert heard there was to be a Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. He disguised his identity by dressing in native costume and speaking the Afghan's Pashto language, and he passed for a Pakistani native. During his travels I was able to trace his journeys with an ever increasing stack of post cards—from the catacombs of Greece to the Tamil-held jungles of Sri Lanka.

After his return, Robert became increasingly interested in genealogy and local history. He became a member of the SCS and later joined our board of Councillors. In the last two years he worked with projects of the 1993 Commemorative Committee and with the Publications Committee.

He has left behind many friends who shall miss his loyal and generous spirit.

*Marie Bates Hiscock ❖*

## 1993 EVENTS PLANNED

### American Swedish Historical Museum—

February: Lecture series with Bishop Jan-Arvid Hellstrom & Peter Stebbins Craig.

May : National meeting of the Executive Committee of the Swedish Council of America.

### Delaware County—

June: Canoe trip to the early Swedish riverside settlements.

### Swedish Colonial Society—

May: Forefathers' Day Banquet/Boatride to Swedish sites on the Delaware

### Township of Tinicum—

Summer: Band concerts at Governor Printz Park, Essington, PA.

June: Midsummer & Fleamarket at Governor Printz Park.

September: 1613 Service at St. John's Lutheran Church, Essington, PA.

## EVENTS, 1992

May 21

**PUBLICATION/COUNCIL MEETING**—Governor and Mrs. Richter were welcomed back following their illness. Newsletter No. 5 was finalized and after the meeting a group stayed late at Robert Mahan's home to prepare the issue for mailing. Dr. Benkt Wennberg reported on his planned translation of the records of Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church dating back to 1697. These invaluable records have never before been translated *in toto* and much early Philadelphia history lies within. The hope is to prepare them for publication in time for the 300th anniversary of the consecration of the church building in the year 2000. Additional monies from our members toward this project would help assure the completion of this important endeavor. Dr. Peter S. Craig reported on the manuscript that is to be published in January, 1993, *The 1693 Census of the Swedes on the Delaware*. A committee appointed to investigate the meeting site for the SCS Council recommended to continue meetings at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, as has been our custom since the inception of our Society in 1907.

June 13

**RECEPTION AT THE OPENING OF CARL LINDBORG'S ART EXHIBIT** at the Baum School of Art in Allentown, PA. The retrospective brought together a number of works in oil and watercolor as well as sculptures executed over a life-time in the art field. Carl Lindborg is internationally recognized for his work as an artist and is, of course, a long-standing member of the Society.

June 17

**ADDRESS ENTITLED, "Where Pennsylvania History Began"** given by Governor Richter at the Thomas R. Patton Masonic Lodge #659 in Philadelphia, PA.

July 7-18

**GOVERNOR PRINTZ'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION**—Since Johan Printz was born in 1592, just 400 years ago, Marie Bates-Hiscock, the 1993 Committee head, planned to celebrate the event in

conjunction with our up-coming 1993 festivities. Originally the party was to be held at ASHM, but due to summer schedules, the response was light so the event was shifted to the Corinthian Club in Essington, PA. This change turned out to be particularly appropriate since the club is on the bank of the Delaware on Tinicum Island property adjoining Printz Park. 55 Guests gathered for the evening's festivities and celebrated as Printz would have done by downing a sumptuous meal. Two special guests flew in for the occasion—Donald Printz, MD, of Tucker, GA, and his father, Dr. Donald Printz of Ashville, NC, both collateral relatives of Johan Printz. They spent the day in the Philadelphia region and received a personally guided tour of the ASHM by Executive Director Ann Barton Brown.

July 12th

**VISITED THE SWEDISH FARMSTEAD** in Bridgeton, NJ bringing along a guide from the Lower Swedish Cabin in Drexel Hill, PA. Camille Julin, manager of the Farmstead Museum, presented information about the museum and the inner-workings of their organization.

August 8th

**"JULMIDDAG" ARRANGED**—to be held at the Corinthian Yacht Club on Sunday, December 6th, 1992. (The Yacht Club is celebrating its 100th year of operation.)

August 23

**VIKING SHIP "NORSEMAN" CHRISTENED**—at the Corinthian Yacht Club and a reception followed. Among those attending were Jack and Jean Tepe, Ulf Hammarckjold, Harold Graden, Dennis Johnson, Gene Martenson, and the Rev. Paul Cornell of the SCS.

August 29

**CAPTAIN CARL WERNER PETTERSSON**—brought a group of 35 Swedish tourists to Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church, where he read in Swedish Alice Lindborg's history of the church, and

Governor Richter presented the SCS purposes and activities to the visitors. On the following day they visited Governor Printz Park.

September 1

**SCS AD**—was placed in the program booklet that will accompany the Nobel Exhibition that opened at the ASIIM in October and will be thereuntil March of 1993.

September 13

**NOMINATED DENNIS L. JOHNSON**—to serve as Swedish American representative on the Pennsylvania Heritage Affairs Commission for the 1992-94 term. Gene Martenson has held this post for the last two terms.

September 17

**PUBLICATION/COUNCIL MEETING**—The Newsletter Committee met prior to the session to plan Issue # 6. The Council meeting began with silence to honor the memory of Councillor Robert Scott Rhodes Mahan, an active and beloved member of our council for the last two years. The Educational Committee headed by Beth Linnerson-Daly reported that an additional school district will be added to their Electronic Kid Exchange in New Castle, Delaware. Hundreds of school children who have been involved with this international exchange program will gather at Printz Park on June 11th, 1993 for a Kids 1993 Commemorative Celebration, the first of its kind.

October 9

**LEIF ERICSON CELEBRATION**—was held at the Viking Statue on Kelly Drive in Philadelphia. The speaker was the Cultural Counselor of the Swedish Embassy, Ingmar Björkstén.

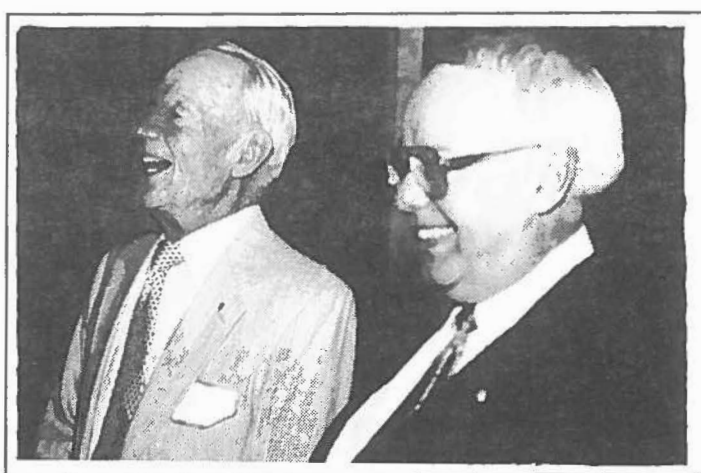
October 16

**ALFRED NOBEL RECEPTION AND DINNER**—was held at the ASHM with several members of SCS attending. Glenn T. Seaborg, Ph.D., 1951 recipient of the Nobel Award in Chemistry was the Guest of Honor.

Wallace F. Richter, Governor ♦



The organizers of the 400th Birthday Party of Johan Printz—Wally Richter and Marie Bates-Hiscock.



Dr. Donald Printz and his son, Donald Printz, MD enjoy the celebration.  
PHOTOS: BETH LINNERSOON-DALY

## MEMBERS

### Congratulations to Carl Lindborg

Of interest to our readers is the fact that Carl Lindborg, recently-retired Historian of the Swedish Colonial Society, had an eminently successful "One Man Show" of oils and water color paintings and of some of his sculptures at the Walter E. Baum Museum of Art in Allentown, PA during the month of June, 1992.

The subject of these paintings varies from creative compositions involving his own children growing up, to city-scapes, including one entitled "A Touch of Paris," a street scene from his student days in that city of art, to a large creative garden sculpture, cast in aluminum, named "Music," and to a group of compositions, notably unique and original sports paintings of plunging, rhythmic athletes playing football, soccer, basketball and baseball. Another subject involved musical instruments with colorful backgrounds.

The later paintings show influence using "Golden Section" arcs and rhythms, stemming from ancient Golden Age Greeks of the 5th century BC, which Carl absorbed during his studies with André L'Hôte, great modernist painter and instructor in Paris.

There was much to see and admire in Carl Lindborg's Allentown Exhibit, and the Swedish Colonial Society can be justly proud of its former Historian who

shows such talents, abilities, and leadership in the visual arts. So we say, "Congratulations, Carl! May the Lord bless you as you continue forging on."

### New Membership

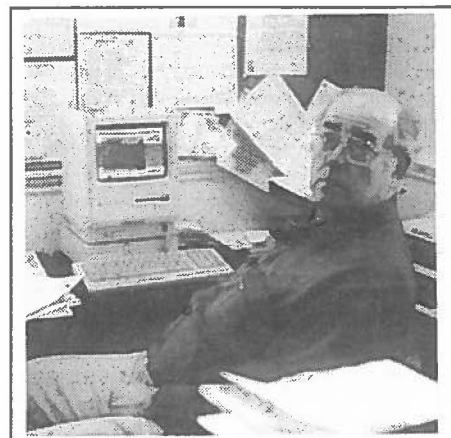
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Ross,  
Moorestown, NJ;  
Mr. & Mr. Gary Bjornson,  
Philadelphia, PA;  
Elizabeth Anne McFarland (Life),  
Radnor, PA;  
Clarence John Braxton Lucas,  
Oakland, CA;  
Nancy B. Foster,  
Cincinnati, OH;  
Mr. & Mrs. Clifford Holgren,  
Bryn Mawr, PA;  
Dennis L. Johnson,  
Philadelphia, PA;  
Virginia Hulings Hill,  
Oakmont, PA.

**Membership procedure:** An application card for new membership must be signed by an active member-sponsor and mailed to the registrar with a check made out to the Swedish Colonial Society for the class of membership desired. Action will be taken at the next meeting of the Council. Dues: Annual, Individual, \$20.00; Annual, Family (two adults, minor children) \$25.00; Life Membership, \$300.00.

Mail to Mrs. Wallace Richter, 336 S. Devon Avenue, Wayne, PA 19087

### In Memorium—1992

May	Koert D. Burnham
June	Miss Helen Eden
July	Mrs. Effie Biel
October	Mr. Everett Sellow



Rev. David Rivers at his computer preparing the text for our newsletter.

### SWEDISH COLONIAL NEWS Publications Committee

Peter S. Craig, J.D.  
Brian Daly  
Beth Linnerson-Daly  
Alice Lindborg  
Carl Lindborg  
Cmdr. John Ramee, USN Ret.  
Wallace Richter  
David Rivers  
Benkt Wennberg, Ph.D.

Printing: Budget Printers,  
Skillman, New Jersey

**Swedish Colonial News**  
The Swedish Colonial Society  
1300 Locust Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Postage