



Swedish Colonial News

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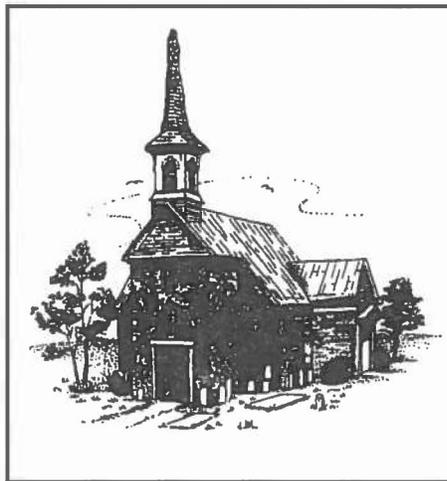
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE

Greetings—John Cameron, our past governor, deserves our commendation and gratitude for a job well done. During his three year term of office we benefited greatly from his extensive involvement with the American Swedish community and his facility in handling the organizational work of our Society.

As the years of the New Sweden Colony recede deeper into the past, the importance of preserving and protecting the colonists history becomes more urgent.

An on-going task for each new Governor and the Council is to choose from the multitude of things that need to be done those that fall within the scope of our stated mission and are possible with our given resources of time, money and people. In a loose-knit organization of volunteers it is important to choose activities that can be carried to completion in a creditable and timely manner. It is also important not to duplicate other organization's efforts so we are conducting an on-going survey of work relating to New Sweden already completed or in the planning stages. This will help us tie our efforts to other like-minded organizations in an effective manner so new works relating to the colony can be collected, written and disseminated as widely as possible to those interested in our Swedish forefathers.

We are privileged to have in our membership Dr. Peter Craig, a scholar competent in both history and genealogy relating to New Sweden. He is our SCS historian,



Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church is the oldest church in Pennsylvania and one of the oldest in the country. Built in 1700 by Swedish settlers it was designated a National Historic Site in 1942.

DRAWING: CHARLES REEDER

one of the few members able to assess and prepare new materials relating to our Swedish ancestors. The adjoining article describes a new and important project spearheaded by Dr. Craig and Rev. Rivers both long-standing council members of our society.

I anticipate with pleasure and high expectation the future of this Society. As we talked to descendants it is inspiring to see how quickly their curiosity about their Swedish ancestry develops. We have a unique niche to fill in the work of documenting and disseminating information regarding the important part our ancestors played in the development of this great country of ours.

❖ John W. Widtfeldt

FUND-RAISING BEGINS: GLORIA DEI RECORDS TRANSLATION PROJECT WILL REQUIRE \$80,000

As reported on page 8 of the last issue of the Swedish Colonial News, plans are underway to publish, by the year 2000, the early records of Gloria Dei (Old Swedes) Church. The Swedish Colonial Society has agreed with Gloria Dei Church to jointly sponsor the project.

The colonial records of Gloria Dei Church constitute the major "missing link" in chronicling the dramatic history of Swedish settlement and culture on the Delaware River in the 17th and 18th centuries. The records of Holy Trinity Church in Wilmington were translated and published in 1890. The records of the Swedish churches at Raccoon (now Swedesboro) and Penns Neck (Pennsville), edited by Dr. Amandus Johnson, were published in 1938. It is fitting that the same be done for the records of Gloria Dei for the 300th anniversary of its consecration in the year 2000.

Rev. David B. Rivers, pastor of Gloria Dei Church, and Dr. Peter S. Craig, noted historian and genealogist of the early Swedes and Finns on the Delaware, have agreed to jointly manage the project.

As presently planned, the project will assemble, translate and publish all of the surviving records of Gloria Dei church prior to the Revolution, both here and in Sweden.

(Continued on page five)

FOREFATHERS

MÅNS SVENSSON LOM, FORGOTTEN FOREFATHER, AND HIS 7 DAUGHTERS

Although the surname of Lom died out by 1685, it is probable that Måns Svensson Lom had more descendants than any other settler of New Sweden. He had nine children, fifty or more grandchildren and at least 250 great-grandchildren. When Andreas Rudman took his census of the Wicaco congregation in 1697, thirty percent (165) of them were Lom's descendants.

Nothing is yet known about Lom's personal history prior to 1641. As he came to America with the Stille brothers (Olof and Axel) it is probable that he was also from Roslagen. That was the reported birthplace of his eldest daughter. The name of his wife is not found in any surviving record. Based on Swedish naming patterns, her name was probably Anna Petersdotter and it seems likely that she was the sister of Olof and Axel Stille, sons of Peter Stille of Roslagen.

Måns Svensson (the son of Sven) used the surname of Lom, pronounced "Loom" in Swedish and sometimes spelled that way. It means "loon" or "diver" and is typical of the kind of name assigned to a Swedish seaman.

Lom's name first appeared in New Sweden records on the passenger list of the *Charitas*, 3 May 1641, on the eve of that ship's departure from Stockholm on the first leg of its voyage to America. Listed right above the family of Olof Stille and the bachelor Axel Stille was "Måns Svensson Lom, a tailor and formerly a lieutenant, who intends to begin agriculture in New Sweden. He has received 5 Riksdaler but otherwise no salary; he goes with his wife, two almost grown-up daughters and a little son."

In New Sweden, he became one of the first settlers of present Delaware County, where he settled with the Stille brothers on a tract called "Techoherassi" by the Indians. This was at present Eddystone, located on the Delaware River between Olof Stille's Creek (now Ridley Creek) and Crum Creek.

On 6 October 1646, during the war of words between Governor Johan Printz and the Dutch, Olof Stille and Måns Svensson Lom delivered one of the Governor's ulti-

matums to Andries Hudde, the Dutch commander at Fort Nassau. The account book of Hendrick Huygen, New Sweden's commissary, dated 1 March 1648, showed that Måns Svensson owed the New Sweden company 274.17 guilders for his purchases from the company store.

Måns Svensson Lom probably died in 1653. On 27 July 1653, his two sons-in-law Peter Larsson Cock and John Wheeler and Olof and Axel Stille were among the 22 freemen submitting a petition of grievances to Governor Printz. Lom's name was conspicuous in its absence. On 9 June 1654, after the arrival of Governor Johan Rising, "Måns Lom's widow" was listed among the "old freemen" pledging allegiance to the new governor.

Arriving on the *Eagle* with Governor Rising was Lars Andersson Collinus, a "münster" (minister's) scribe, who soon married Måns Lom's widow. In 1664, Olof Stille's family and the Lom family (with its new father-in-law) moved to Moyamensing on the Delaware River in present South Philadelphia. "Lasse" Andersson later became a justice on the Upland Court. After the creation of Pennsylvania, Lasse Andersson was "naturalized" by William Penn and joined other "antient Sweeds" in signing a deposition (for use against Lord Baltimore) establishing that the Swedes were the first permanent settlers in Delaware, which Baltimore claimed belonged to Maryland. The will of Lars Andersson Collinus, dated 17 July 1689, left his Moyamensing plantation to Michael Nilsson Laican and Andrew Wheeler, who were, respectively, a son-in-law and grandson of Måns Lom.

It is unknown when Lom's wife died. However, she was the mother of nine children:

1. **Margaret Lom**, born in 1626 in Roslagen, was buried by pastor Andreas Sandel 13 Feb. 1703 at the age of 76. She married **Peter Larsson Cock** and lived at Peter Cock's (later Province) Island. They had 13 children:

> **Lars ("Lasse") Cock**, born 21 March 1646, died October 1699 at Passyunk; married Lydia Ashman; 13 children.

> **child (Måns?)**, born 1648, died young.

> **Erick Cock**, born c. 1650, died 1701 in Gloucester County; married Elisabeth Olofsdotter Philipson, 9 children.

> **Anna Cock**, born c. 1652, died in Upper Merion Township; married Gunnar Rambo, 9 children.

> **Måns Cock**, born c. 1654, died c. 1721, Gloucester

County; married Gunilla Jonasdotter Nilsson, 7 children.
> **John Cock**, born 1656, died 1716, St. Georges Creek, New Castle County; married Brigitta Nilsdotter Friend, 9 children.

> **Peter Cock**, born 1658, died 1708, Passyunk; married Helena Israelsdotter Helm, 9 children.

> **Magdalena Cock**, born 1659, died after 1723 in Kingessing; married Anders Petersson Longacre, 10 children.

> **Maria Cock**, born 1661, died after 1717 in Passyunk; married Anders Rambo, 6 children.

> **Gabriel Cock**, born 1663, died after 1714 in New Castle County; married Maria Nilsdotter Friend, 7 or more children.

> **Brigitta Cock**, born 1665, died 1726 in Gloucester County; married John Rambo, 11 children.

> **Margaret Cock**, born 1667, died 1701 in Kingessing; married Robert Longshore and Thomas Jenner, 3 children.

> **Catharine Cock**, born 1669, died 1748 in Moyamensing; married Bengt Bengtsson, 4 or more children.

2. **Catharine Lom**, born in Roslagen c. 1628, married **John Wheeler**, an Englishman, who lived in the New Sweden colony. After the 1653 protest to Printz, they moved to Swanwyck, near the Dutch Fort Casimir (New Castle), and by 1658 had moved to the Sassafras River in Cecil County, Maryland. Catharine died before 1674 when John Wheeler's second wife Mary renounced any interest in his property. Catharine had four known children:

> **Samuel Wheeler**, born c. 1650, who remained in Cecil County on his father's "Roundstone" plantation; never married.

> **John Wheeler**, born c. 1654, sold his father's "Wheeler's Point" plantation in Cecil County to his brother-in-law Nicholas Allum in 1677, intending to move to land acquired by his "grandfather" Lars Andersson in Blockley Township, Philadelphia County. However, he returned to Cecil County to live at "Roundstone," married Elizabeth and died in 1698, survived by 3 daughters.

> **Anna Wheeler**, born c. 1656, married Nicholas Allum; 1 daughter.

> **Anders Wheeler**, born c. 1660, moved as a young man to the Blockley Township land acquired by Lars Andersson. After inheriting part of Moyamensing from Andersson, he sold the Blockley Township lands to his cousins, the Gertsson brothers. Married Catharine Andersdotter Svensson and Anna Maria Geörgen (Urian), 7 children.

3. **Peter Månsson**, born in Roslagen c. 1638, never used his father's surname. He married a daughter (name unknown) of Sven Gunnarsson and in 1673 was shown as a one-third owner of the Bought on the Delaware in Brandywine Hundred, New Castle County. He surrendered this interest to Marcus Laurens and moved to Cecil County,

where he died in 1677, survived by one child:
 > **Anders Petersson**. Sven Svensson, Peter Månsson's brother-in-law, attempted, without success, to be his guardian. Anders appears to have died in his minority in Cecil County, without issue.

4. **Anna Lom**, born at sea in 1641, married **Giösta Danielsson**, who arrived in New Sweden in 1654 as a tailor and soldier. They lived at Upland (Chester), where Danielsson died intestate in 1681, survived by three daughters:

> **Margaret Danielsson**, baptized in 1658 at the Dutch Church in New Amsterdam (New York); died in 1697 in Gloucester County; married Casper Fish in 1675, 8 children.

> **Brigitta Danielsson**, born c. 1660, died c. 1685 in Gloucester County; became 2d wife of Marcus Laurens, a Holsteiner [progenitor of the Swedish Hulings], 2 children.

> **Maria Danielsson**, born 1663, died 1699 at Tacony, Philadelphia County; married Nils Olleson Gästenberg, 8 children.

5. **Beata Lom**, born 1643, reported to be the first girl born in New Sweden, died at Upland in the spring of 1689. In January 1662 she became the second wife of Pastor **Lars Carlsson Lock**, who came to New Sweden in 1648. Their children:

> **Anders Lock**, born c. 1663, died 1716 in Gloucester County; married Christina Fish, sister of Casper Fish and widow of Hans Petersson, 6 children.

> **Måns Lock**, born c. 1665, died c. 1698 in Gloucester County; unmarried.

> **Catharine Lock**, born c. 1668, died 1720 in Gloucester County; married John Jonasson [Nilsson], 5 daughters.

> **John Lock**, born c. 1670, died 1720 in Gloucester County; married Catharine Hoffman, 4 children.

> **Peter Lock**, born c. 1673, died 1731 in Gloucester County; married Maria, 9 children.

> **Maria Lock**, born c. 1675, had illegitimate child by Hermanus Helm; not further traced.

> **Gustaf Lock**, born c. 1680, died 1742 in Gloucester County; married Magdalena Hoffman, 8 children.

> Another daughter (not identified) who told Peter Kalm in 1748 that her mother Beata Lom was the first girl born in New Sweden.

6. **Christina Lom**, born c. 1645, married **Mårten Gertsson** of Christina Creek c. 1663. She died after 1678. After her husband drowned out of his canoe in 1680, Lars Andersson Collinus and Sven Månsson Lom were named administrators of his estate. Her children:

> **Gertrude Gertsson**, born 1664, died 1744 in Moyamensing; married John Stille, son of Olof Stille, 12 children.

> **Armegot Gertsson**, born 1664, died 1755 in Blockley Township, married Johan Skute, son of Captain Sven Skute, 3 children.

> **Gerrit Gertsson** [later Garrett], born c. 1672, died

1732 in Blockley Township, married (1st) Magdalena, (2d) his cousin Regina Huling, daughter of Marcus Laurens, 8 children.

> **Mårten Gertsson** [later Garrett], born 1675, died 1751 in Blockley Township; married Brita Jonasdatter Nilsson, 5 children.

7. **Sven Månsson Lom**, born c. 1648, died c. 1685 in Blockley Township; name of wife unknown, one child named in stepfather's will:

> **Utro (Gertrude?) Lom**; no further record.

8. **Helena Lom**, born 1650, died 1720 in Gloucester County. She married **Michael Nilsson Laican** in 1670. Initially they lived at the Bought on land later occupied by her brother Peter Månsson. Then they moved to Shackamaxon to share land with her nephew, Lasse Cock. Michael Laican stayed in Shackamaxon after inheriting land at Moyamensing from Lars Andersson Collinus. He moved in 1699 to Gloucester County, where he died in 1704. They had 10 children:

> **Catharine Laican**, born 1671, who married Lawrence Huling, eldest son of Marcus Laurens, 2 sons.

> **Anna Laican**, born 1673, died in Upper Merion Township; married her cousin John Gunnarsson Rambo, 7 children.

> **Gertrude Laican**, born 1675, died c. 1721 in Gloucester County; married her cousin Peter Ericksson Cock, 8 children.

> **Nils Laican**, born 1677, died 1733 in Gloucester County; married cousin Susannah Fish, no children.

> **Måns Laican**, born 1679, died 1728 in Gloucester County; married Maria, 2 children.

> **Anders Laican**, born 1682, died 1733 in Gloucester County; never married.

> **Christina Laican**, born 1684, died in Gloucester County; married cousin Elias Fish, 6 children.

> **Michael Laican**, born 1686, died after 1740 in Gloucester County; married Anna Hoffman, 10 children.

> **Helena Laican**, born 1689, died in Gloucester County; married cousin Casper Fish, Jr., 7 children.

> **Zacharias Laican**, born 1696, died 1733 in Gloucester County; never married.

9. **Maria Lom**, born c. 1652, married **John Mattsson**, son of Matthias Hanson c. 1672. After living at Moyamensing for 12 years, they moved to Gloucester County where Mattsson died in 1701. Aside from caring for the younger children of Lars and Beata Lock after their deaths, John and Maria Mattsson had at least seven children of their own:

> **Matthias Mattsson**, born c. 1673, died 1700 in Gloucester County; unmarried.

> **Anna Mattsson**, born c. 1674, died 1721 in Gloucester County; married Stephen Jones, son of Anders Jönsson Ekoren, 6 children.

> **Måns Mattsson**, born c. 1676, died c. 1705 in Gloucester County; married Elisabeth, 1 child.

> **Gertrude Mattsson**, born c. 1678; husband and children (if any) unknown.

> **Anders Mattsson**, born c. 1680, died 1734 in Gloucester County; married Maria Van Culen, 5 children.

> **Maria Mattsson**, married in 1717 William Philpot of Salem County, 7 children.

> One or two other daughters not identified.

The "forgotten forefather" Måns Svensson Lom left quite a family!

❖ *Dr. Peter S. Craig*

Correction: Skute & Stille families

The Forefathers article on Captain Sven Skute in the Fall 1993 issue of the Swedish Colonial News was in error in listing, as his daughter, Gertrude (born 1664), who married John Stille. The will of John Stille named Sven Skute's son Johan Skute his "brother-in-law," suggesting that Stille had married Johan Skute's sister. However the names given to John Stille's children prove that his wife Gertrude was the daughter of Mårten Gertsson and Christina Lom and sister of Johan Skute's wife Armegot. John and Gertrude Stille named their eldest daughter Christina and named a son Morton. They did not name any son Sven.

FOREFATHER MEMBERSHIP

The by-laws of the Swedish Colonial Society provide that "active members who can prove descent from Swedish colonists in the United States prior to the Treaty of Paris, marking the close of the Revolutionary War in 1783, may be designated with an asterik on the records of the Society and be further known as Forefather Members." Society members who may qualify for this distinction, but are not yet so recognized, may obtain application forms and assistance from the Society's Historian, Dr. Peter S. Craig, F.A.S.G., 3406 Macomb St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20016 (telephone 202-362-7192).

BOOK REVIEWS**SWEDISH AMERICAN LANDMARKS; Where to go and what to see,**
by Alan H. Winquist

This 350-page softbound book, recently published by the Swedish Council of America, 2600 Park Avenue, Minneapolis MN 55407 (\$24.95 including postage and handling), fills an important need in identifying prominent Swedish American landmarks on a state by state basis.

The author, a professor of history at Taylor University in Upland, Indiana, appropriately devotes the first 28 pages of this book to the landmarks located in the four-state area impacted by the New Sweden colony - Delaware, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Maryland. In updating and correcting this list of landmarks, the author was fortunate in obtaining assistance from Dr. Richard H. Hulan of Arlington, an expert on the early Swedish and Finnish settlements in the area.

Among the Delaware sites featured in the book are Fort Christina Park, Holy Trinity Church and the Hendrickson House in Wilmington and the "Swedish Blockhouse" on Naaman's Road in Claymont.

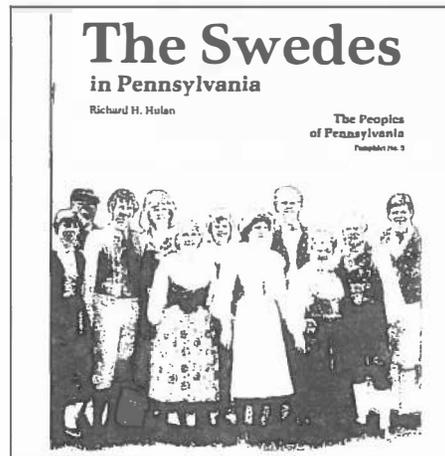
The New Jersey section includes Trinity Church and the Van Lear-Schorn cabin in Swedesboro NJ, the Nothnagle log house at Gibbstown, St. George's Church in Pennsville, the New Sweden Farmstead Museum in Bridgetown, the Caesar Hoskins log house in Mauricetown, the Swedish granary in Greenwich, the Mullica Hill community, as well as various historic markers.

In Pennsylvania, there is good coverage of the American Swedish Historical Museum, Governor Printz Park, the Lower Swedish cabin on Darby Creek, the Morton Homestead, Gloria Dei Church in Philadelphia, St. James Church of Kingsessing in West Philadelphia, Christ Church of Upper Merion, Bartram's Gardens (originally the home of Mouns Jones), and the second Mouns Jones House and St. Gabriel's Church in Douglassville.

In Maryland there is also good coverage of St. Mary Anne's church in Northeast (founded by the Swedish pastor Jonas Auren) and the John Hansson Steelman House at Elk Landing in Elkton.

I highly recommend this book for anyone interested in searching out and understanding the surviving historic sites of the early Swedish and Finnish settlers in the greater Delaware valley. As an extra bonus, the buyer also gets a nationwide listing of later Swedish-American landmarks dealing with the wave of immigrants from Sweden in the 19th century.

❖ Dr. Peter S. Craig

**THE SWEDES IN PENNSYLVANIA**
by Richard H. Hulan

This 8 1/2 by 11, six-page booklet, containing a wealth of information, was published last year by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission to introduce to the population of the Commonwealth the Swedes who constituted the first permanent settlers in the Delaware Valley as well as their countrymen coming later.

Dr. Richard H. Hulan, a historian of Arlington, Virginia, who has published much on the New Sweden colony, provides excellent coverage of these colonists in the first three chapters, "Colonial History and Demography," "The Church, the Arts, and Science," and "Folk and Material Culture." The final two chapters, "Later Immigration" (the 18th and 19th centuries) and "The Modern Era," bring us up to our days.

This good little handbook fills a gap for basic information on the Swedish presence in Pennsylvania over the centuries and should be widely read by all members of our society.

Copies may be ordered for \$3.00 from our Society's historian, Dr. Peter S. Craig, 3406 Macomb St., N.W., Washington, DC 20016.

❖ Dr. Benkt Wennberg

NEW SWEDEN BOOKSHELF**BOOKS AVAILABLE AT AMERICAN SWEDISH HISTORICAL MUSEUM**

The American Swedish Historical Museum, 1900 Pattison Avenue, Philadelphia PA 19145-5901, has announced that it has the following books relating to the Swedes on the Delaware available for sale by mail order.

Philadelphia residents should add 7% sales tax; other Pennsylvania residents, 6% sales tax. No tax for interstate shipments. Orders should also include payment for postage and handling: \$3 for first book, \$1 for each additional book.

Hardbound Books

Amandus Johnson, *Instructions for Johan Printz* (1930), \$50.00

Amandus Johnson, *The Swedes on the Delaware, 1638-1655* (1914), \$25.00

Jehu Curtis Clay, *Annals of the Swedes on the Delaware* (4th ed., 1938), \$25.00

Peter S. Craig, *The 1693 Census of the Swedes on the Delaware* (1993), \$37.50

Softbound Books

C. A. Weslager, *New Sweden on the Delaware 1638-1655* (1988), \$9.95

C. A. Weslager, *Swedes and Dutch at New Castle* (1987), \$9.95

C. A. Weslager, *A Man and His Ship: Peter Minuit and the Kalmar Nyckel* (1990), \$9.95

Oliver K. Olson, *The Church in New Sweden* (1988), \$12.00

Samuel B. Sturgis, *Where Pennsylvania History Began*, \$1.50

SUBMISSION OF ARTICLES & PHOTOS TO NEWSLETTER

Limited space will be reserved in each issue for readers' articles or photos. Material submitted 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 identification should accompany all photos. Please do not write directly on the photo, either in front or back. Include a return address and phone number for questions the Publications Committee might have or return of photo.

Send materials to: NEWSLETTER, Swedish Colonial Society, 916 Swanson, Philadelphia, PA 19147

(Continued from page one)

This is a ambitious project and one that will take several years to accomplish. The principal cost — estimated at \$40,000 — will be the cost of quality translations of documents written in old Swedish script. This translation work needs to start in early 1996. Dr. Craig has reached tentative agreement with two experts to undertake this translation work, Dr. Richard H. Hulan, who will tackle the Swedish records at Gloria Dei and Dr. Gunlög Fur of Uppsala University, who will translate voluminous records of the church in the Uppsala archives.

The Gloria Dei records include minutes of vestry meetings and appointments, details on church and parsonage improvements, disciplinary actions, marriage, baptism and burial records, lists of contributors to the building or improvement of the church and to the minister's salary, pew assignments, church censuses, etc. Such records relate not only to the history of Gloria Dei but also the histories of the Swedish churches at Swedesboro, Douglassville, Upper Merion and West Philadelphia, all of which were part of Gloria Dei's congregation before establishing their own separate centers for worship.

Supplementing the records at Gloria Dei are extensive records in the archives at Uppsala, which include letters from the pastors of Gloria Dei, letters or petitions from the congregation, and church censuses. The records will show that not infrequently the pastor and congregation at Gloria Dei were at odds with the Swedish Lutheran Consistory in Uppsala on such issues as the use of the English language and English books in church services, and the appointment or recall of ministers.

The total cost of this project is estimated at \$80,000, including the cost of illustrations, printing and binding. This figure does not include the value of the time of Dr. Craig, Rev. Rivers or other volunteers such as Dr. Benkt Wennberg who will be contributing their labor to the project. The publication will be edited by Dr. Craig, who will seek to fill gaps in the surviving church records from secondary sources.

The willingness of Dr. Craig and Rev. Rivers to undertake this important project deserves the praise and support of all members of the Swedish Colonial Society.

By its charter, one of the fundamental purposes of the Swedish Colonial Society is to "collect, preserve and publish records, documents and other materials relating to the history of the Swedes in America." The Year 2000 Project provides us with a golden opportunity to make available the rich records of Gloria Dei in printed form, for all to use.

As a start toward raising the \$80,000 necessary for this project, the Councillors of the Swedish Colonial Society agreed at its May meeting to earmark two recent gifts to this purpose: a \$2,000 bequest from the late Allen Lesley and funds which have been contributed to the Carl E. Lindborg Memorial Fund for Swedish Historical Research. Currently there is \$1,500 in this fund. Carl's widow Alice Lindborg and her family have kindly consented to devoting this money to this translation project.

Another \$5,000 has been pledged by the Swedish Colonial Society from the Society's capital accounts.

Checks should be made payable to the Swedish Colonial Society, marked "Gloria Dei Records Project," and mailed directly to our treasurer, Clifford Holgren, 322 Bryn Mawr Avenue, Bryn Mawr PA 19010. All contributions are tax deductible under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Alternatively, contributions may be made directly to Gloria Dei Church, earmarked for the "Gloria Dei Records Project," and mailed to Rev. David B. Rivers, Gloria Dei (Old Swedes) Church, 916 South Swanson Street, Philadelphia, PA 19147.

350 YEARS AGO

FIRE DESTROYS PRINTZ'S NEW FORT AND MANSION ON TINICUM ISLAND

The year 1645 was a disappointing one to the residents of New Sweden: No new ships arrived from the homeland. To meet the needs of the settlers, trading was necessary, not only with the Indians but also with traders from various British colonies, such as Isaac Allerton (a passenger on the 1620 *Mayflower*), who operated ships out of New Haven and Manhattan. To meet the needs of former servants who had be-

come freemen, two trips were made to Manhattan to buy oxen from the Dutch.

But the worst catastrophe was the big fire on Tinicum Island, which destroyed the log fort, church, storehouse and Governor Printz' "Printzhof" estate. Everything was lost except for one barn.

It all began on the night of November 25th when Sven Håckensson Vass, was on duty as watchman. He fell asleep and left his candle burning. Between ten and eleven an alarm was given. The fort was on fire! The flames soon spread rapidly, especially after the powder chest exploded with terrible force. By dawn, the fort, storehouse, church, Printzhof and all other buildings were charred ruins.

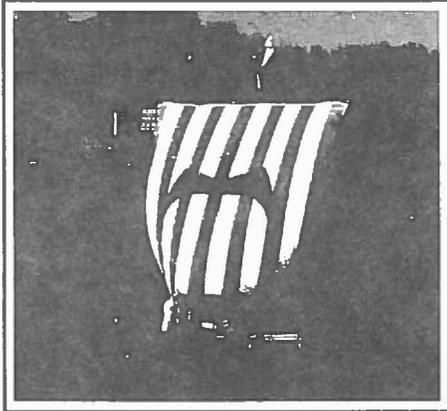
No one was killed by the fire. However, it took many months to replace the structures that had been wiped out in one night. And it was claimed that the new fort, the new church and the new Printzhof were much grander than their predecessors.

All of the buildings were located on the shore of the Delaware River at present Governor Printz Park and the adjoining grounds of the Corinthian Yacht Club. Some of the charred remains of the original Printzhof were discovered in the 1937 archaeological study of the Printzhof site at Governor Printz Park on Tinicum Island.

The fire brought to an end Sven Håckensson Vass's career in New Sweden. A native of Örebro in Sweden, Sven had been a sailor on the 1642-43 voyage of the *Swan* to New Sweden. Rather than returning with the ship, he decided to remain in New Sweden and was hired as gunner's mate at Tinicum Island commencing 1 March 1644. He asked that his wages be paid to his wife in Sweden. Probably he hoped she would come on a later voyage.

But this was not to be. He was tried by the court, which ruled that he should be sent back to Sweden in chains. He made his return trip to Sweden on the *Gyllene Haj*, which departed from the Delaware in March 1647 and arrived in Gothenburg in June 1647. In Sweden, he was allowed to collect his back pay in 1647-1648, after which the name of Sven Håckensson Vass disappears from New Sweden records.

❖ Dr. Peter S. Craig



The Viking ship Norseman

PHOTO: TINA LASSEN

SOCIETY JOINS IN THE CELEBRATION OF LEIF ERICSSON DAY

On October 9th, Leif Ericsson Day, many members, councillors and officers of the Swedish Colonial Society were on hand to greet *The Norseman*, a replica of a Viking warship, as it landed on the east bank of the Schuylkill River near the statue of Thorfinn Karlsefni, leader of the Viking settlement in the New World (1003-1006 AD). The captain of the Norseman, Dennis Johnson, is a member of the SCS.

Each year a different Nordic nation sponsors the October 9th ceremony honoring Leif Ericsson, the Viking discoverer of North America. This year was Sweden's turn, and accordingly Sweden sent their Embassy's Press Attache', Bertil Jobeus - who gave the keynote speech reminding the audience that the sagas always represented actual truth. Philadelphia's Mayor, Ed Rendell, also spoke and acknowledged the fact that the area which eventually became Philadelphia was originally settled by the Swedes and Finns in the 1640's.

Our Governor was seated on the dais next to Mayor Rendell and the Swedish Press Attache' and was recognized. Wallace Richter, our Registrar has arranged to have the flags presented since 1976. The event was heavily covered by the local press and television stations with a helicopter hovering over to get aerial shots. Because it was Columbus Day and a national holiday there were several hundred observers in the audience including numerous children in Viking costumes. Several of the Norseman in Viking attire who manned the longship were members of our Society.

❖ Brian Daly



Governor Widtfeldt (left) and former Governor Cameron (right) greet Goran Carstedt and his wife, Ulla (center) at our spring Forefather's Luncheon.

PHOTO: LENA CARLSSON

NEW OFFICERS 1995 - 1996

Cdr. John W. Widtfeldt, USN Ret.
Governor

William B. Neal
Senior Deputy Governor

Mrs. George C. McFarland
Junior Deputy Governor

The Rev. David B. Rivers
Secretary

Clifford J. Holgren
Treasurer

Wallace F. Richter
Registrar

Cdr. John Ramée, USN Ret.
Captain of the Color Guard

The Rev. C. Reed Brinkman
Chaplain

Gordon L. Keen, Jr., Esq.
Counsellor

Peter S. Craig, FASG
Historian

Beth Linnerson-Daly
Education Coordinator

FOREFATHERS' LUNCHEON

Mr. Göran Carstedt, President of IKEA North America, was the keynote speaker at the spring Forefather's Luncheon on April 9th. He spoke of the origin of IKEA in Sweden and the history of the company in America. The first IKEA store in the United States was opened in Philadelphia in 1985. Its immediate success and subsequent growth is due in part to an operating philosophy — making furniture of high quality and good design available to the average family at reasonable prices. Most of their furniture pieces come as packed for shipping and require self assembly. They have discovered a need to adapt some of their products to US specifications. Mr. Carstedt, has since taken another position with IKEA in Denmark. His wife, Ulla Carstedt, joined him at the luncheon.



Professor Gunnil Sjöberg presents Derek Yoo, recipient of the 1995 Amandus Johnson Scholarship award.

PHOTO: LENA CARLSSON

**Forefathers Luncheon:**

Forefathers members present with Governor John Widfeldt.
 Top left to right: Larry Stallcup, John Cameron, Lawrence Matson;
 Second Row: Dr. John Bright Tepe, James Friend;

Third Row:

Gov. John Widfeldt, Dr. Peter Craig, Tamall Hillman, William Neal;
 Bottom Row: Patricia W. Blakely, Ruth Ellen Davis, Verna Marvin.

Anne Widfeldt, Marie Bates Hiscock.

PHOTO: LENA CARLSSON

NEW FOREFATHER MEMBERS

Antoinette W. Sorensen, Tacoma WA, descended from Sinnick Broer by his son Broer Sinnix.

James Whitney Marvin, Jr., and **Sara Frances Marvin**, of Wyncote PA, descended from **Lars Thomasson** via his son **Lars Larsson Boore**.

Gloria R. Hoppe of Big Sandy TX, descended from **Hans MÅnsson** via his son **Peter Hansson Steelman**.

Richard D. Stevens of Kansas City MO, descended from **Johan Andersson Stalcop** via his son **Peter Stalcop**.

John C. Cameron, **Christopher Cameron** and **Meghan Cameron** of Malvern PA, descended from **Johan Van Culen** via his son **Gregor** or **George Culin**.

Mildred Meredith of Bloomfield IN, descended from **Mårten Mårtensson** via his son **Matthias Mårtensson**.

Stuart Henri Yost of Philadelphia PA, descendant of **Hans Olleson** via his grandson **Hance Woolson**.

John G. Taylor of Wallingford PA, descendant of **Jonas Nilsson** via his son **Jonathan Jonasson (Jones)**.

Richard W. Langford of Claymont DE, descendant of **Mårten Mårtensson** via his son **Mårten Mårtensson, Jr.**, **John Morton** and **John Morton** (signer of Declaration of Independence).

NEW FOREFATHER CERTIFICATES

Recent additions to the Society's list of Forefather Members have received new certificates developed by Linda R. Smith of Shamong, NJ. Forefather Members desiring new certificates should send checks for \$5.00 payable to Swedish Colonial Society, to Wallace F. Richter, Registrar, 336 South Devon Ave., Wayne, PA 19087-2927.

UPCOMING EVENTS**Julmiddag**

Swedish Colonial Society
 Merion Cricket Club, Haverford, PA
 Sunday, Dec. 3rd,
 Reception 11:30 am, Dinner 12:30 pm

St. Lucia Day Ceremony

Gloria Dei: "Old Swedes" Church
 Philadelphia, PA
 Friday, Dec. 8th
 Lucia Processions: 6 & 8 pm, Sat. Dec.
 9th & Sunday, Dec. 10th: 2, 3:30 & 5 pm

Swedish Colonial Christmas

Cumberland County Historical Society
 Greenwich, NJ
 Sunday, Dec. 3rd, 12 noon to 5 pm

Holiday Ethnic Festival

Nothnagle Cabin
 Gibbstown, NJ
 Sunday, Dec. 3rd
 Cabin open 12-1 pm
 Festival 2 pm

Lucia Celebrations

American Swedish Historical Museum
 Philadelphia, PA
 Friday, Dec. 8th, Julbord: 6:30 pm
 Saturday, Dec. 9th:
 Lucia Procession 1:30 and 3:00 pm
 and Julmarknad: 12:00 noon to 4:30 pm

St. Lucia Day Festival

St. Luke's Lutheran Church
 Devon, PA
 Sunday, Dec. 3rd, 7:00 pm

St. Lucia Festival

Old Swedes' Church
 Swedesburg, PA
 Wednesday, Dec. 13th

St. Lucia Day Ceremony

Holy Trinity "Old Swedes" Church
 Wilmington, DE
 Sunday, Dec. 10th, 3:00 pm

St. Lucia's Day Ceremony

Trinity Church, Parish Hall
 Swedesboro, NJ
 Sunday, Dec. 10th, 6:00 pm



Esther Ann McFarland

A Brief Profile of our Junior Deputy Governor, Mrs. George C. McFarland (Esther Ann)...

Since joining the Society in 1987, Esther Ann has contributed generously of her time and considerable talent in support of our organization. Under her guidance as Chair of the Special Events Committee we enjoyed many outstanding events - including our 350th Anniversary Celebration in 1988. She was also an important catalyst in our 1993 celebration — "Kids Celebrate." More recently, she was Chair of a Committee responsible for revision of the SCS By-Laws - a time consuming but noteworthy task.

Mrs. McFarland is both a Life and Forefather Member of the Society. Her son, George, Jr., is also a Life and Forefather Member, together with his three children, Megan, George, III and Elizabeth Anne.

A glimpse into her genealogy is fasci-

nating. Esther Ann is descended from Jonas Nilsson and his wife, Gertrude Svensdotter, supposed daughter of Sven Gunnarsson. Jonas Nilsson arrived in New Sweden with Governor Printz in 1643 as a soldier and Sven Gunnarsson arrived in 1640 on the *Kalmar Nyckel*. A great-granddaughter of Jonas Nilsson and his wife Gertrude was Roseanna Lort, who married William Lewis, Esq. (later Judge Lewis).

Judge Lewis built Historic Strawberry Mansion in East Fairmount Park in 1789. It is interesting to note that there is a Swedish connection to the property: The land on which the house is located was owned until 1696 by Sven, Olof and Anders Svensson, heirs of Sven Gunnarsson, as a result of a land exchange in 1683. In that year William Penn exchanged 600 acres along the Schuylkill River for frontage on the Delaware River to lay out his City of Philadelphia.

In addition to the Swedish Colonial Society, Esther Ann is a hereditary member of the Netherlands Society of Philadelphia, National Society of Colonial Dames, Welcome Society, Daughters of the American Revolution, Daughters of Founders & Patriots and the PA. Society of New England Women. She serves as a Vice President of the Committee of 1926 for Historic Strawberry Mansion, East Fairmount Park, Philadelphia, PA.

Her interests are history, genealogy, travel and her grandchildren. She is a world traveler, having visited all seven continents, traveling as far north as Spitzbergen and The Ice Pack and south to Antarctica.

❖ Dorothy W. Richter

New Members

LeRoy R. Gerhard
Ft. Myers, FL
 Mildred E.S. Meredith
Bloomfield, IN
 Dorothy G. Tuttle
Murry, UT
 Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Henrickson
Moorestown, NJ

Note: Whenever members change their address it is their responsibility to notify in writing of such change in order to continue receiving *The Swedish Colonial News* and information about current events. We have lost contact with some of our Forefather and Life members. Don't let this happen to you.

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 Mr. Wallace Richter, 336 S. Devon Ave., Wayne, PA 19087-2927.

SWEDISH COLONIAL NEWS Publications Committee

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