



# Swedish Colonial News

Volume 1, Number 16

Fall, 1997

## GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE

The Swedish Colonial Society continues to grow and contribute to the preservation of the Swedish heritage in colonial America. This is made possible by members who are willing to serve in our organization. Once again, we express our appreciation for John Widfeldt's service as Governor and to the other officers and members of Council who have dedicated their time and energy to the Society. Most importantly, your officers thank you the members who support the Society with your contributions and attendance at events.

Recently, I read an article by the National Commander of the American Legion entitled "Follow the Three Vs to Victory." He describes three factors he feels necessary to assure an organization's success. I could not help but apply his ideas to our Society. His three Vs are "Visibility - Does the community know you are there? Vitality - Are you performing a worthwhile service with enthusiasm? Vision - How fully have you thought through the role your organization plays in the Big Picture?"

Our Society compares very favorably with his formula. Space does not permit a detailed analysis here but I need only to mention the "Swedish Colonial News", our joint sponsorship with Gloria Dei Church to translate the Gloria Dei records and our substantial financial support toward the construction of the *Kalmar Nyckel*. These projects alone reflect **Visibility, Vitality and Vision.**

The Swedish Colonial Society has a proud history of accomplishment and remains a healthy organization after eighty-eight years. However we recognize that improvements can be made in each of the three areas. It is my hope that the council with your support will more than meet all of the challenges that confront our Society within the coming year.

William Neal



*Near the historic "Rocks" where the original Kalmar Nyckel landed the first Swedes in 1638, the full size replica proudly flies the flags of Holland, Sweden, Finland and America as she glides into the Christina River.*

*PHOTO: Elizabeth Thrush*

## Kalmar Nyckel Replica Launched

With the sound of cannon thundering twice in the traditional naval "Swedish Salute," the flags of Holland, Finland and Sweden at her masts and a huge "Old Glory" billowing from her stern, the replica *Kalmar Nyckel* slid gracefully into the waters of the Christina River. An estimated 10,000 cheering spectators watched as the people of the State of Delaware and the Kalmar Nyckel Foundation made a sixty-year-old dream come true.

The ship was launched on September 28th at the Foundation's Wilmington shipyard, less than 100 yards from the "Rocks." In late March 1638, her namesake landed the first Swedish expedition led by Peter Minuit, who named the site Fort Christina, in honor of "Her Royal Highness, the great virgin Princess Christina, Queen of the

Swedes, Goths and Wends, Grand Duchess of Finland, Protector of Estonia and her other Territories" which soon included "New Sweden in the Americas."

The idea of recreating the *Kalmar Nyckel* first surfaced in 1938 when His Royal Highness Prince Bertil of Sweden represented the Swedish Nation at the 300th anniversary celebration and the dedication of Fort Christina State Park, Wilmington, DE. The park was designed to include a mooring area with the future in mind.

The advent of World War II prevented further action and the idea was forgotten for decades until it was revived fifty years later in 1988 during the 350th Anniversary Celebrations.

(Continued on page 6)

## FOREFATHERS

### OLOF PERSSON STILLE AND HIS FAMILY

Olof Stille was born on the island of Solö in Roslagen, northeast of Stockholm, the son of Per Stille, a relatively prosperous supervisor of the Penningby estate in Länna parish. By 1627 Per Stille had retired and was granted land by the owners of Penningby on a nearby island called Humblö. Here Olof Stille married and began his family. Although Olof Stille was on good terms with Erik Bielke, who inherited Penningby in 1629, he did not think well of Bielke's wife, Catarina Fleming.

At the Norrtälje fair in 1636, Olof Stille indiscreetly voiced his opinion of Lady Catarina Fleming, who retaliated by prosecuting Olof for defamation and took his property at Humblö. When Olof refused to leave the island, he was imprisoned. After securing his freedom, Olof and his family resettled in Matsunda, where he was joined by one of his former servants named Anders. Lady Fleming, now a widow, had Anders seized on 18 March 1638 and imprisoned at Penningby under the claim that Anders had broken a verbal agreement with the late Lord Bielke to be their servant.

Olof Stille heard the news the next day, entered Penningby Castle by a secret door, broke the lock to the dungeon with his axe and then fled, with Anders carrying the axe and Olof his own rapier. On complaint from Lady Fleming, the Governor issued an order for Olof Stille's arrest on 28 March 1638 — the same day that the first expedition to New Sweden was landing at the Rocks. At the trial on 13 April 1638 Olof Stille was convicted of burglary and sentenced to death by the sword. The appellate court, however, modified the sentence to a fine of 100 daler silver money, the equivalent of 17 months pay for a New Sweden soldier.

Three years later, in May 1641, when the *Charitas* departed for New Sweden, the passenger list included Olof Stille, a mill-maker, his wife, a daughter aged 7 and a son aged 1½. Also on board were Olof's younger brother Axel Stille, and the family of Måns Svensson Lom, whose wife appears to have been Olof's younger sister. His older brother, Johan Stille, later pastor

at Fundbo, 1644-1672, and his sister Kerstin remained in Sweden.

In New Sweden, Olof Stille settled as a freeman at a place called Techoherassi by the Indians, located between present Crum Creek and Ridley Creek (called Olof Stille's Creek). Joining him at this location were his brother Axel Stille and the Lom family. The Indians were frequent visitors to Techoherassi and liked Olof Stille very much, but they considered his heavy, black beard a monstrosity and conferred a strange name on him because of it.

As the only known mill-maker in the colony, Olof Stille probably was in charge of building the first Swedish gristmill on Mill (now Cobbs) Creek. He also became a leader among the freemen and played a key role in promoting the July 1653 list of grievances, signed by Olof Stille and 21 other freemen, which was submitted to Governor Johan Printz, protesting his dictatorial rule. Printz labeled this action mutiny and promptly left for Sweden. To Olof Stille, however, it was simply exercising the right of free speech. When Governor Rising arrived, Olof asked for a prompt trial. Rising, who took a more kindly view toward the freeman, let the matter drop.

After the surrender of New Sweden, the Dutch governor, Petrus Stuyvesant, agreed to allow the Swedes and Finns living north of the Christina River to govern themselves. The first Swedish court, organized in 1656, had Olof Stille as its chief justice and also included Peter Larsson Cock, Peter Gunnarsson Rambo and Matts Hansson from Borgå, Finland.

During his eight years as chief justice of the Swedes' court, there were frequent policy clashes between the Swedes and the Dutch. Olof Stille proved himself to be an able defender of the Swedes' position and usually prevailed.

Retiring as chief justice in 1664, Olof Stille moved to Moyamensing (later south Philadelphia) with Lars Andersson Collinus (who had married Måns Lom's widow) and his son-in-law Marten Roosemond. Even in retirement, he was called upon to arbitrate disputes among the settlers. He died about 1684. He was survived by his brother Axel Stille, who had no children, and four children who have been identified:

1. **Ella Stille**, born in 1634 in Rosla-

gen, married twice. By her first husband, **Peter Jochimsson**, she had two children, Peter Petersson Yocum, born 1652, and Elisabeth Petersdotter, born 1654, who married John Ogle, an English soldier. By her second marriage to **Hans Månsson**, she had six more sons, originally known by the patronymic Hansson but later adopting the surname of Steelman. They were John, Jöns (James), Christiern, Peter, Charles and Eric. Elladied in 1718 in Gloucester County NJ.

2. **Anders Stille**, born in 1640 in Roslagen, moved to New Castle about 1658 and married there, by 1671, **Annetje Pieters**, daughter of the Dutch brewer, Pieter Wolfertsen van Couwenhoven. Soon after his marriage, he moved to Christina Creek, taking up residence next to his niece, Elisabeth Petersdotter Ogle. Later, they moved to White Clay Creek in New Castle County, where he died between 1688 and 1692, survived by two sons, John and Jacob, and one daughter thus far identified, Elisabeth, who married Charles Hedges.

3. **Christina Stille**, born in America c. 1643, became the second wife of **Marten Roosemond**, a Dutch "cleinsmit" (tool-maker), who moved from New Castle to Moyamensing after his marriage. Two landmarks on that property were named Roosemond Creek and Hollanders Creek. Roosemond returned to New Castle before 1671 and served as judge on the New Castle court and deacon of the Dutch church there until his death in 1677. It is unknown whether Christina had any children.

4. **Johan Stille**, born in America in 1646, married about 1683 **Gertrude**, daughter of **Mårten Gerritsen** and **Christina Lom** of New Castle County. They had twelve children: Christina (born 1684), Anna (1685), Olof [William] (1687), Sarah (1690), John (1692), Brigitta (1693), Barbara (1697), Peter (1699), Gertrude (1701), Morton (1704), Helena (1705) and Allemisha (1709). Johan Stille inherited the Moyamensing plantation, where he died in 1722. His widow died in 1744.

*Dr. Peter S. Craig*

**300 YEARS AGO****THE BIRTH OF SWEDEN'S  
'AMERICAN MISSION' ON  
THE DELAWARE, 1697**

The year 1997 marks the 300th anniversary of the Swedish Lutheran Church's "American Mission," which led to the construction of eight "Old Swedes" churches in the Delaware Valley.

In 1693 the Swedes in Pennsylvania, West New Jersey, New Castle County, Delaware, and Cecil County, Maryland, had addressed a letter to the Postmaster of Gothenburg, requesting his aid in securing new ministers and Bibles for their two log churches at Wicaco and Crane Hook. This letter was brought to the attention of the king and the church Consistory at Uppsala. As a result, two ministers were recruited, Andreas Rudman and Eric Björk, to serve the two churches. They brought with them the requested Bibles and were joined by Jonas Aurén, another minister, who was to travel in the area, take notes and return with a report for the king.

Rudman and Björk sailed from Stockholm on 25 July 1696, arriving in London on 6 October. Aurén, who had a shorter trip from Gothenburg, was already there. The group remained in London for four months. They left London on 4 February 1697 on the ship *Jeffries* with a flotilla of other ships, moving as a convoy to ward off French men-of-war prowling the English Channel for prizes. Progress through the Channel was slow and the ships did not leave the coast of England until 24 March.

The *Jeffries* first landed at the James River in Virginia on 4 June, where it remained for six days before moving up the Chesapeake Bay. The ship arrived at Annapolis on 19 June. After being dined royally by the English governor, Francis Nicholson, for four days, the three ministers left Annapolis on a smaller boat and went directly to Sahakitko, a Swedish settlement at the head of the Elk River (present Elk Landing), where they debarked on 24 June 1697.

Word was immediately carried to other Swedish settlements in present Delaware

and Pennsylvania of the arrival of the new ministers. Swedes from these other settlements quickly flocked to Sahakitko, with horses, in order to usher the newcomers, first to Delaware, on 27 June, and then to Philadelphia on 28 June. The ministers first paid their respects to Vice Governor William Markham, 28 June, and then met with the two Swedish congregations. On 30 June, they met members of the Wicaco congregation and read to the group the 1693 letter which had requested new ministers and the replies of the Swedish Crown and Church. This was repeated for the lower congregation at Crane Hook on 2 July.

Rudman, the senior pastor, chose the Wicaco church; Björk the lower church. On Sunday, 11 July 1697, both pastors delivered their first sermons. The "American Mission" had begun.

Within two years, work would be underway constructing two new churches: Holy Trinity Church at Christina (now Wilmington), dedicated in 1699, and Gloria Dei Church at Wicaco (now Philadelphia), dedicated in 1700. Other Swedish churches would be spawned from these two churches between 1700 and 1765.

Letters by Rudman and Björk sent to Sweden in late October 1697 record their first impressions of the Swedes in their congregations and life in the new world. These letters will be published in full as part of the Gloria Dei Records Project. Here are some sample excerpts from Rudman's letters:

"The Swedes live far separated and scattered, but always along the water. Some of them have 16 English miles to the church. In spite of this, they nevertheless come to church every Sunday."

"Round about them, and partly in between, English people live, which language they know, as well as the Indian and Dutch languages, and on top of that their mother tongue as clear as it was spoken in Sweden, but they break somewhat on the Östgöta and Västgöta endings."

"The membership of the two congregations amounts to 1200 persons, including children and servants."

"All the houses are timbered in the

Swedish custom. The women cook food according to the Swedish custom and brew fine and pleasant tasting drinks, besides which they know how to make several splendid drinks of apples and peaches, which they call cider, very enjoyable to drink, and found to be good for the health."

"The young are numerous and poorly instructed, which is not to be wondered at, but we are more surprised over the fact that the majority of them are nevertheless able to read in a book, so that if we had twice as many books along from Sweden, there would have been use for them."

"The churches are old and decrepit. Therefore we, with the help of the Lord, will exert ourselves to build new ones."

"My parson's land [at Passyunk], which is 100 acres, cost [the congregation] 70 pounds sterling and is nevertheless a small sum compared to what the Quakers want to give, if they could entice the homesteads at the water from the Swedes, which many had done before our arrival. Such Swedes had to move further up in the forest. But from now on, this is not going to happen."

"The wild people [Indians] are now very scarce, having been exterminated by God through their contagious diseases and lengthy civil wars. They are otherwise very peaceful people, especially towards our Swedes, whom they call brothers, which they do not call the English."

"Concerning the government, we thank God that we have it quite pleasant and lenient under the Vice Governor, Mr. William Markham., who is quite favorable towards us. There are also several Swedes in this country who serve as aldermen and judges. Many of our Swedes also serve as officers, captains, lieutenants, ensigns and constables, and we have in all measure the same freedom and opportunity in everything as any Englishman ever can have."

*Dr. Peter S. Craig*

## GENEALOGY NOTES

### NEW DISCOVERIES ABOUT THE ANCIENT SWEDES

Continued research into early records has revealed new facts regarding the families of New Sweden settlers, which the author would like to share with our readers:

#### **Peter Rambo Family**

In 1693, when Peter Rambo wrote to his sister in Gothenburg, he reported that he and his wife Brita Mattsdotter had four sons and four daughters. One daughter had died in childhood, but the other seven children were married with families. However, when Peter Rambo wrote his will one year later, he named only four sons and two daughters.

Who was the fourth daughter? From the above record, we know she was married with children in 1693, but was dead by the following year.

A partial answer has now been found. In notes collected by the late Albert Cook Myers at the Chester County Historical Society is an abstract of a 1740 deposition by John Rambo, youngest son of Peter Rambo, in which John Rambo makes reference to "an elder brother that lives at the Conococheague River in Maryland, aged about 90 years, named Andrew Friend alias Neils."

The reference is to Anders Nilsson Friend, son of Nils Larsson Frände and Anna Andersdotter. As is obvious, John Rambo and Andrew Friend could not be blood brothers. The reference to "brother" in those days encompassed "brother-in-law." John Rambo was married to Brigitta Cock, all of whose sisters are accounted for. This leaves only one option: that Anders Friend had married the missing Rambo daughter.

In the 1693 census of the Swedes, Anders Frände was head of a household of four persons, implying a wife and two children. It is known that he married twice and was remarried by 1699 when Anders and his second wife were allotted pews in the new Holy Trinity Church in Wilmington. Previously, I assumed his first wife was a daughter of Israel Helm, because Anders' eldest son was named Israel. That was wrong. It now is evident that Anders' first wife was the missing daughter of Peter

Rambo. Her first name remains unknown, and it is uncertain whether any of her children survived. However, Israel Friend remains a strong candidate. In 1725 he was named ambassador to the Indians by the governor of Maryland. He died in 1753 in Frederick County, Virginia.

#### **Hans Månsson's First Wife**

On 31 May 1641 Hans Månsson was convicted for "ruining" fruit trees in the Royal Garden at Varnhem and sentenced to the choice of being hanged or going to New Sweden "with his wife and family." Hereafter, no record has been found of such "wife and family," leading many scholars to wonder if this reference was an error. In 1654 Hans Månsson became the second husband of Ella Stille and had six surviving sons named Steelman.

Now, positive proof has been found that Hans Månsson had a son Måns Hansson, born before 1654, so that he must have had a prior wife. That proof is found in Philadelphia Exemplification Book 8, pages 444-446, involving a tract of land in Kingessing known as Sayamensing, first patented to Peter Larsson Cock on 1 May 1671. On 24 Sept. 1675 Cock assigned the patent to Peter Mattsson and Peter Petersson [Yocum]. On 12 March 1676 Peter Petersson, Hans Månsson's stepson, assigned his half to Måns Hansson, who in turn assigned the same half to Peter Mattsson on 27 March 1676. Further confirmation of Måns Hansson's existence is found in New York Historical Manuscripts-Dutch, 19:20b, reporting a payment on 10 April 1658 to "Mans ———— Mons Monssen on behalf of Hans Mons—." Filling in the now illegible letters, it appears the original entry was intended to be "Måns Hansson alias Måns Månsson on behalf of Hans Månsson."

No record has been found that Måns Hansson married or had children. However, if Hans Månsson had a son by his first marriage, it is likely that he also had daughters by his first marriage. This raises a number of interesting questions. For example, the wife of the Swedish soldier Jürgen Keen is unknown. She named her eldest son Hans Keen. Her other son, Jonas Keen, later shared land in New Jersey with Hans Månsson. Was Jürgen Keen's wife Hans Månsson's daughter by his first marriage?

#### **Anders Stille's Wife**

Deeds by Anders Stille, eldest son of Olof Stille (see Forefathers article), identify his wife as Annetje, the Dutch form of Anna. In testimony before the New Castle court, Anders stated that he had been familiar with the houses and streets of the town since 1658. In the 1671 English census of the Delaware, Anders was shown as residing in New Castle and married to the owner of his house, named Anna Peterson by the English census taker.

Who was Anna or Annetje "Peterson"? This has long stumped me. However, in working up a pending article on this 1671 census for future publication, I was struck by the fact that Wharton's census was a door-to-door survey of each resident. Comparing his census with records of early patents and deeds disclosed, beyond question, that the house occupied by Anders Stille and his wife was owned by a Dutch brewer by the name of Pieter Wolfertsen van Couwenhoven, who was in prison at Manhattan in 1671 because he had defaulted on a mortgage of property in Elizabethtown, NJ, to Governor Philip Carteret of New Jersey. Pieter was not himself named in the census, perhaps to hide his identity from creditors. But, whatever the reason, the father's financial difficulties now tell us that his daughter, known as Annetje Pieters van Couwenhoven to the Dutch, was the wife of Anders Stille, the Swede. The house in New Castle was sold in 1672 and the Stille family moved to Christiana Bridge to live next door to Anders Stille's niece Elisabeth Petersdotter [Yocum], wife of the English soldier, John Ogle.

*Dr. Peter S. Craig*

#### **Genealogical Inquiries**

Do you have a genealogical inquiry relating to early Swedish and Finnish settlers? Or have you made a genealogical discovery relating to these settlers that might be of interest to our readers? If so, please forward your query or your solution to Dr. Peter S. Craig, 3406 Macomb Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20016. And look for queries and answers in future issues of the *Swedish Colonial News*.

## Forefathers' Day Luncheon

On Sunday, April 13, a beautiful breezy afternoon, a large number of members and guests gathered to celebrate Forefathers' Day in the eighty-eighth year of the Society's founding. The event was dedicated to his Royal Highness Prince Bertil, Deputy High Patron of our Society, who passed away January 5, 1997.

The event opened outside with the assistance of an impressive color guard and fine singing of the National Anthems led by Ms. Hildegard Lindstrom. Rev. Barbara Harris, Rector of Trinity "Old Swedes" Church in Swedesboro, gave the invocation. Former Governor Wallace Richter presented the new Governor, William Neal, with the Society's gavel and the Governor's medal. The traditional toasts were given.

Nominating Committee Chairman Wallace Richter reported the slate for Council members which was adopted. Besides the current Forefather Members listed on the back of the program, Historian Peter Craig introduced those attending the luncheon.

Mrs. Gunnil Sjöberg, retired Senior Lecturer of the University of Pennsylvania, introduced Ms. Anne Jenner, who replaces her in the Department of Germanic Languages and Literature. Ms. Jenner spoke briefly and then introduced our Dr. Amandus Johnson Scholar, Richard Carlson, who told us a little about himself and graciously thanked the Society.

The program centered on the progress of the *Kalmar Nyckel* shipbuilding project. Mrs. Margaret Fillos, the Executive Director of the Kalmar Nyckel Foundation, gave us the historical background of the Foundation and an up-date on future activities. Mr. Joel Welter, a naval architect, reviewed in detail the construction of the ship, accompanied with slides.

The event concluded with the placing of a wreath at the monument near the entrance of the Corinthian Yacht Club. This monument was erected by our Society in 1923 to commemorate the site of Governor Johan Printz's government of New Sweden—the first government of present Pennsylvania.

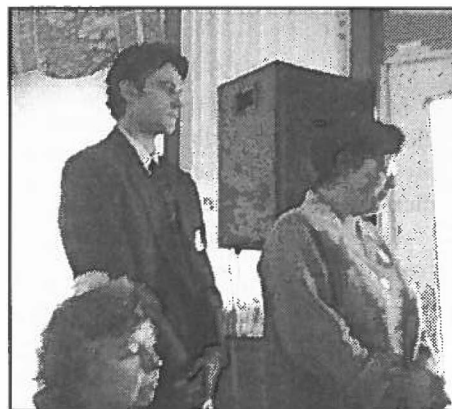
William Neal



*Descendents of the Ancient Swedes gather at the Society's annual Forefathers' Luncheon. (Left to right) 1st row, William Neal, Ruthellen Davis, Esther Ann McFarland, Anne Widtfelt, Elizabeth Scholl, Mrs. John Spencer, and Verna Marvin. 2nd row John Cameron Dr. Kim-Eric Williams, Dr. Peter Craig, F. Leif Eareckson, Alexander P. Hartnet, Dr. J. H. T. Rambo, Christina Lassen, and Herbert Rambo. 3rd row, Lawrence Mattsson, James A. Friend, and the Color Guard of the 3rd Battalion, 14th U. S. Marines and Ronald Henriksson.*



*ABOVE; The Color Party Sgt. Charles Wilson salutes Commander John Ramee, USN (Ret) after receiving orders to retire the colors following impressive opening ceremonies associ-*



*Above: Ms Anne Jenner prepares to give scholarship award to Richard Carlson.*

*ated with the annual Forefathers' Luncheon. The five man color party was supplied by the 3rd Battalion, 14th Marines, Philadelphia, PA to commemorate Ramee's retirement as Captain of the Swedish Colonial Society Color Guard.*

(Continued from Page 1)

The Kalmar Nyckel Foundation, led by Executive Director Margaret Tigue Fillos and a blue chip Board of Trustees which includes Honorary Trustees **Dr. Erik G. M. Törnqvist** and **Olaf Sundin** harnessed the dreams. Through herculean effort and with the strong support of Delaware's Governor Thomas Carper, they brought the ship to reality.

The festivities began early with the sound of the Johan Printz Trumpeters from the Royal Academy of Music, Stockholm, followed by the Bishop of Delaware, The Rt. Reverend Cabell Tennis, celebrating The Eucharist at Holy Trinity (Old Swedes) Church. The Bishop was assisted by SCS Associate Chaplain, **Reverend Kim-Eric Williams**, and Reverend Anne B. Bonnyman, Rector of Old Swedes.

Numerous dignitaries filled the 300 year-old church during the service, including Wilmington Mayor and Mrs. James D. Sills, Delaware Attorney General M. Jane Brady, SCS Governor **William B. Neal**.

Following the Memorial Service, the Johan Printz Trumpeters led the clergy, first person interpreters of Governor Printz, his daughter **Arnegot Printz Papegoja**, son-in-law Lt. Johan Papegoja and several hundred descendants of the Ancient Swedes, their families and friends as they marched to Fort Christina State Park. There they were joined by a detachment of Swedish Musketeers portraying the "Amerikan Garrison" who escorted the procession to the Kalmar Nyckel Foundation Shipyard.

Following the launching ceremony, Wilmington Fire Boat No. 7, pumping at full blast, led the Viking Ship *Norseman* and vessels from other ports past *Kalmar Nyckel's* new mooring site. Over the next several months she will be rigged and prepared for February sea trials prior to commissioning.

Herbert Rambo

*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.*

## Swedish Colonial Society Medals, Insignia and Rosettes

One of the benefits of your membership is the right to wear with pride, any of the three decorations which signify affiliation with the Swedish Colonial Society. These are:

### The SCS Medal

Cast in gold and bearing the image of Governor Johan Printz within a white enameled border, the strikingly handsome Swedish Colonial Society Medal is worn with formal evening dress or business attire. Hanging from a blue and yellow ribbon of the Swedish National Colors, the SCS Medal can be worn suspended either from the ribbon around the neck, or on the left side at mid-shoulder level. SCS Medal cost: \$90.00.

### The SCS Insignia

A smaller version of the Medal, the gold Society Insignia is worn on the left jacket lapel and is appropriate for all occasions. Both the Medal and Lapel Insignia are produced exclusively for the Society by J. E. Caldwell Jewelers, Philadelphia, PA. SCS Insignia cost: \$40.00.

### The SCS Rosette

Made in France of the same blue and yellow colors as the ribbon, the Society Rosette is worn on informal occasions to indicate society membership: Cost \$5.00.

After obtaining written authorization by calling the Society Registrar, Wallace F. Richter, at (610) 688-1766, the medals insignia can be obtained via mail order from J. E. Caldwell by calling Mr. Johnson at (215) 864-7800. The Rosette can be purchased by contacting Society Treasurer Clifford Holgren at (610) 525-1636.

As our organization continues to grow and prosper, there will be an ever growing list of events where decorations will be worn. In their daily lives, members are encouraged to appropriately wear decoration befitting the prestigious nature of the Swedish Colonial Society.

## NEW FOREFATHER MEMBERS

**Bobby G. Lykins**, Estill Springs TN, descended from **Peter Nilsson Lykins** via **Anders Lykins** of Amity Township, Berks County PA.

**Margaret Sooy Bridwell**, Berwyn PA, descended from **Olof Stille** via daughter **Ella Stille** who married **Hans Månsson** and their son **Jöns (James) Steelman** of Great Egg Harbor NJ.

**Patricia T. Marshall**, Milford DE, descended from **Jürgen Keen** via his daughter **Anna Keen** who married **James Sandelands** of Upland [Chester] PA.

## 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 asterisk 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. NW, Washington, D.C. 20016 (telephone 202 362-7192)



LEFT: Governor Neal presents the Society's annual Gloria Dei contribution to Rev. Paulette Schiff at the Thanksgiving service, Sunday, May 4.



## UPDATE

## GLORIA DEI RECORDS

The original records of Gloria Dei Church in Philadelphia are currently being translated in connection with the 300th anniversary of the building of the present church in the year 2000. Under the careful scrutiny of Dr. Peter S. Craig of Washington, DC, I have become a collaborator in this exciting project.

It is not hard to figure out why this has not been done before. The records from 1697 until 1737 are entirely in Swedish with a few English summaries written by Nils Collin here and there on blank pages.

These records date from before the days of standardized dictionaries and spelling. Each pastor had his own way of spelling, using abbreviations, and making the letters with a quill pen. Some of the handwriting is beautiful and neatly done but most of it is rather crooked and angular. It is a piece of detective work to decipher what is meant. The language is not so much of a dilemma as the peculiar writing styles that are represented in the first fifty years. Records from the original church building on Tinicum Island are lost and seem to have been fragmentary in any case.

Among the fascinating items that will result from this work will be many dates for genealogists and a much fuller life story of Gloria Dei parish. Among the gems now discovered is a list of the African contract laborers that helped build Gloria Dei's 1700 structure.

I have a special corner in the Chester County Historical Society that I use to spread out all the materials and give my full attention to the translation. Each day brings new difficulties and new discoveries that are beginning to light up the life of Gloria Dei 300 years ago.

Dr. Kim-Eric Williams

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 \$25.00; Annual, Family (two adults, minor children) \$30.00; Life Membership, \$300.00  
Mail to Mr. Wallace Richter, 336 So. Devon Avenue, Wayne, PA 19087-2927

## LIVING HISTORY

"LivingHistory" where reenactors take on a persona of earlier generations in order to portray specific events or daily life, attracts a great deal of attention and has proven to be an effective means of promoting public awareness. The recent launching of the replica of the *Kalmar Nyckel* has intensified interest and prompted a drive to organize an informal local group of New Sweden Colonists.

Swedish Colonial Society members **David Lewis**, who portrays Governor Johan Printz and SCS Color Guard Captain **David Anderson** are in the vanguard in preserving the legacy of New Sweden. They and their associates have made numerous appearances throughout the region portraying colonial life along the Delaware.

A group headquartered in Maryland recreates the Lifeguard of Officers and Musketeers of Sweden's Lion of the North, King Gustavus Adolphus. Within the confines of the New Sweden area, these veterans of northern Europe's bloody 30 Year's War portray the Swedish colonial garrison stationed in America at Fort Christina and elsewhere in Delaware, SE Pennsylvania and Southern New Jersey.

But as historians know, because of the wars in Europe, Sweden had very limited military strength in America. The professional military rarely numbered more than 50 and sometimes their number was closer to 25 musketeers and officers. These regular troops were supplemented by 25 to 50 Swedish freemen, ready to take up arms in the time of emergency.

In 1655, following the Dutch invasion, the freemen answered Royal Governor Johan Rising's call to defend the colony. They were one of America's earliest known "minutemen."

The Swedish colonial freemen were formally organized as the New Sweden Militia in 1656 with Captain Sven Skute in command. New Amsterdam Governor Peter Stuyvesent expected the Swedes to augment Dutch forces but the Swedes didn't see things the same way. The New Sweden Militia never fought in any military engagement and ignored Dutch orders to reinforce New Amsterdam.

As we approach the millennium, the main focus of today's group, including



Herbert Rambo, 11th generation grandson of Peter Gunnarson Rambo and Brita Mattsdotter Rambo, portrays his ancestor in period clothing at the Ceremonies for the Launching of the *Kalmar Nyckel*.

PHOTO: ELIZABETH THRUSH

both men and women, will be the civilian aspects of life in New Sweden. By appearing in period dress at appropriate historical events, they will enhance other efforts publicizing the colorful and historic New Sweden legacy of our ancestors.

To find authentic period clothing and supplies like that worn by our ancestors there are retail merchants call "sutlers" prepared to meet this need. Garments come in assorted sizes and reflects every life style "from the manor born to farmer." Items are available from local sources or through mail order at prices similar to current costs for clothing. For example, an authentic man's complete outfit, circa 1640, of hat, coat, shirt, breeches and stockings runs in the range of \$225 or \$90 less without the coat. Women's clothing is in the same price range. One source is Stykes Sutlery, Johnstown, PA (814) 255-3027 scheduled to be at the Christ "Old Swedes" Church Lucia service, Upper Merion, PA on December 14th and at Fort Christina, Wilmington, DE on March 29th.

If you are interested in pursuing this and wish further information, contact Senior Deputy Governor Herbert Rambo (609) 768-5325.

UPCOMING EVENTS

## The Colonial Calendar

**November 10, 1997**

**Delaware Swedish Colonial Society Council Meeting** Meets 2nd Monday-Dec. through June. 4:30 pm, Hendrickson House, Wilmington, DE. For information, call Albert Ostrand (302) 656-3731

**November 11, 1997**

**Gloria Dei 2000 Committee**, Meets 2nd Tuesday, February through June. 6:30 pm. St. Olaf's Hall, Columbus Blvd. and Christian St., Philadelphia, PA. For information call, Jeanette Woehr (609) 795-3781

**November 20, 1997**

**ASHM Genealogy Club**, "ASHM library changes" Executive Director Ann Barton Brown will speak on future goals for the Museum's library. 7:00 pm ASHM, 1700 Pattison Ave., Philadelphia, PA For information call (215) 389-1776.

**November 20, 1997**

**Swedish Colonial Society Councillors Meeting** meets 3rd Thursday, Jan. through June, 2:00 pm, Gloria Dei "Old Swedes" Church, Columbus Blvd., & Christian St., Philadelphia, PA. For information contact Registrar Wallace F. Richter, (610) 688-1766

**November 30, 1997**

**Swedish Colonial Society Annual Julmiddag** 11:30 am, social hour; 12:30 pm, luncheon. Cost \$32.50. Merion Cricket Club, Montgomery Ave. & Gray's Lane, Haverford, PA. Dr. William W. Clements speaks on "Viking Runes in America?" For reservations call Clifford Holgren (610) 525-1636

**December 5, 1997**

**ASHM Lucia Julbord**, 6:00 pm, Full Swedish smörgasbord and formal Lucia procession at museum. ASHM, 1700 Pattison Ave., Philadelphia, PA. Christmas market opens. Reservations required, call (215) 389-1776

**December 5 & 6, 1997**

**Gloria Dei "Old Swedes Church** 6 & 8 pm on 5th; 2, 3:30, & 5 pm on 6th. Columbus Blvd. & Christian St., Philadelphia, PA Coffee and Lucia buns follow at St. Olaf's Hall. For further information call (215) 389-1513

**December 6, 1997**

**ASHM Lucia and Julmarknad**, 12 & 4 pm, Continuing over 60 years of tradition, the ASHM Lucia Festival with Swedish Christmas

Cafe, Julmarknad (Christmas Market) and the formal candlelight Lucia. Raffle drawing for two round-trip tickets to Sweden. For information, call (215) 389-1776.

**December 7, 1997**

**Swedish Cabin**, 2-5 pm, 9 Creek Rd. Drexel Hill, PA. Trim a Swedish Christmas Tree and enjoy refreshments. For further information call (610) 449-3577

**December 13, & 14**

**The Road to Valley Forge Patriot's Lucia** Christ "Old Swedes" Church, Rts. #23 River Road) Upper Merion, PA. 13th at 7:30 pm and 14th at 2:30 pm. ( See right column for details.)

**December 14, 1997**

**Trinity "Old Swedes" Church**, 2:30 pm, Lucia Festival, 208 Kings Highway, Swedesboro, NJ, For further information, call (609) 467-1227

**December 14, 1997**

**Holy Trinity "Old Swedes" Church**, Wilmington, DE 3:00 pm, Lucia Pageant, For further information contact Jo Thompson (302) 652-5629. Early arrival suggested.

**January 24, 1998**

**ASHM "Artsoppa Och Punsch"**, Pea Soup and Punch Dinner, 6:00 pm, Traditional Swedish favorites served up with great fellowship. Reservations required. Call (215) 768-5325

**February 20, 1997**

**ASHM, Exhibit Opening**, "Swedish Organizations in the USA: Then and Now"

**March 21, 1997**

**The Swedish Cabin Annual Pea Soup Supper**, St. John's Episcopal Church, Baltimore Pike, Lansdowne, PA, sponsored by the Friends of the Swedish Cabin, Reservations made through David Anderson (610) 449-3577

**March 29, 1998**

**New Sweden Colonial Forefather's Ceremonial Reenactment of the Swede's landing at "The Rocks"** in Wilmington and Commissioning of *Kalmar Nyckel*, Day long event.

**May 3, 1998**

**Colonial Forefathers Luncheon**, DuPont Country Club, Wilmington, DE. Look for details in Spring issue.

## The Road to Valley Forge... Patriot's Lucia

Two hundred and twenty years ago, following their defeat in the fierce Revolutionary War battles at Brandywine and Germantown, the Continental Army camped at Whitemarsh, Pennsylvania, and waited for Sir Thomas Howe and a British attack which never materialized.

On a wintry December 11, 1777, the Americans broke camp. General George Washington led our soldiers across the Schuylkill River to their winter quarters at Valley Forge. Protecting the men and wagons as they slowly crept along the River Road were General Casimir Pulaski, "Father of American Calvary," and his horsemen. They camped on the high ground near Christ "Old Swedes" Church, where Swedish American colonists were making final preparations for their traditional Lucia "Festival of Lights" and the start of the Christmas season. During the historic march, General Washington, General Pulaski, the Marquis de Lafayette and General Anthony Wayne made a historic visit to the little Swedish church.

The passage to Valley Forge will be commemorated at 4:00 pm when re-enactors dressed as war weary Continental soldiers join the Generals and the congregation for Lucia.

The Swedes' historic friendship with Native Americans is also recalled during the Festival. A re-enactor, dressed as a Lenni-Lenape woman, arrives at the church with a little Swedish girl she saved from danger after finding her in the woods. The "Seed Lady" is a beloved character in "Ellen's Amerika." Written by Marguerite de Angeli, the book is about the little girl's adventures in New Sweden more than 300 years ago. Mrs. de Angeli was the author of a series of popular "adventure" books written during the 1930's and 40's. To mark the occasion the late author's son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Henry de Angeli, will be visiting the "Old Swedes" Church.

Throughout the afternoon there will be living history demonstrations about the Revolution and colonial life. The Reverend James Evans, Rector, will explore the Lucia heritage in colonial America. The Reverend Kim-Eric Williams will speak on the history of the Church's beautiful stained glass windows which depict the history of



New Sweden. The public is invited. For directions or further information call (215) 272-6036, (215) 265-1257 or Herbert Rambo, (609) 768-5325.

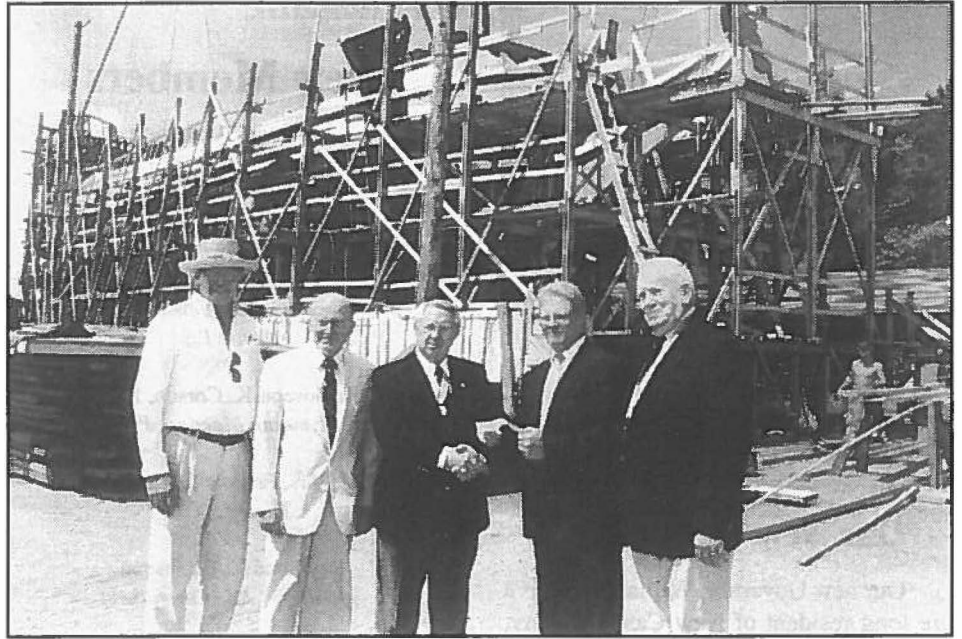
## PAINTING OF GOVERNOR PRINTZ TO BE RETURNED TO THE SWEDISH COLONIAL SOCIETY

One of the cherished belongings of the Swedish Colonial Society is the painting of Johan Printz, Governor of New Sweden, 1643-1653, which was given to the Society in 1910 by His Majesty Gustaf V, King of Sweden. The painting was copied from the original in the church at Bottnaryd, the village where Printz was born near Jönköping, Sweden.

For many years the painting of Governor Printz hung in the board room at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, where monthly meetings of the SCS Council were held. Later, the painting was incorporated into the HSP's exhibit hall where it hung among other paintings and artifacts loaned to or owned by the Historical Society.

Recently, the Historical Society of Pennsylvania announced that it was closing its exhibit hall and that most paintings and artifacts would be disposed of in order to make more room for its book and manuscript collection. This led to correspondence from William B. Neal, Governor of the Swedish Colonial Society, to Ms. Susan Stitt, President of HSP, requesting that the painting of Governor Printz be returned.

By letter of September 23, 1997, Ms. Stitt replied that "we will be happy to return the Swedish Colonial Society's oil portrait of Governor Johan Printz, as requested." Currently, the portrait is in storage, and the SCS Council is exploring other options, such as the American Swedish Historical Museum, as an appropriate place to permit continued public display of this historic painting.



## Society Supports Kalmar Nyckel Project

In the shadow of the scaffolding of the *Kalmar Nyckel*, Thursday, July 24, a delegation of the Swedish Colonial Society consisting of Governor William Neal, and former Governors Wallace Richter and Eric Tornquist presented a five thousand dollar check to the Kalmar Nyckel Foundation's Co-Chairman of the Capital Campaign Fund, Arthur Lodge. Also present were the builder, Allen Rawl, and the Executive Director, Margaret Fillos.

The Society's contribution represents its strong support for the reconstruction of the earliest colonial ship to arrive in what is now Wilmington, Delaware in 1638.

The fund sponsors the whipstaff package, which serves as the steering mechanism for the ship and upon which a bronze recognition plate will be placed. A carving of the Swedish Colonial Society's logo will also be on the upper part of the rudder so that those visiting the ship in port will view it from the outside area of the ship.



*Left: Re-enactors portray Musketeers of Her Swedish Majesty's American garrison at the historic launching of the replica *Kalmar Nyckel* in Wilmington, DE.*

*Right: The Johan Printz Trumpeteers from the Royal Swedish Academy of Music, Stockholm, play during the Eucharist at Holy Trinity "Old Swedes" Church. PHOTOS: SOPHIA RAMBO*





## Our New Governor

Our new Governor, William Neal, is a life long resident of New Castle County, DE, the region to which his ancestors came in the mid-17th century. He is of direct descent from Pål Larsson Corvhorn who arrived in the Delaware Valley on board the *Eagle* in 1654. As both a forefather and life member of the Swedish Colonial Society, he has served for the past four years as a council member, Recording Secretary and Senior Deputy Governor.

After receiving his Masters Degree in History from Harvard University, Neal taught for 20 years at the Pierre S. du Pont High School, heading up the History Department for 17 of those years.

This devotion to local American History led him to become a leader in many historical organizations including the founding President of the Delaware Genealogical Society, President of the Delaware Sons of the American Revolution and Regional Vice President of the National Congress of Patriotic Organizations, to name a few.

## MEMBERSHIP

### New Members

James L. Anderson  
*West Chester, OH*

Robert H. Brewton  
*Norristown, PA*

Elizabeth Chinsano  
*Devon PA*

Dr. Joseph K. Corson, MD  
*Plymouth Meeting, PA*

Mr & Mrs. Francis James Dallet  
*Toconic, CT*

Raymond T. Eareckson  
*Scottsdale, AZ (Forefather)*

Mrs. Natalie D. Hunter  
*Berwyn, PA*

Mrs. & Mrs. Bruce Johnson  
*Bowie, MD*

Col. Andrew Johnson  
*Arlington, VA*

Mr. & Mrs. Francis Scott Key  
*Paramus, NJ*

Col. Howard H. Lighthipe  
*Bethany Beach, DE*

Raymond H. Longacre  
*Ephrata PA*

Mr & Mrs. Bobby G. Lykins Jr.  
*Estill Springs, TN (Forefather)*

Patricia T. Marshall  
*Milford, DE*

Bernice W. Munsey  
*Arlington, VA*

Sven Magnus Orrsjo  
*Sweden*

Ellen Rye  
*Silver Spring, MD*

Richard W. Sage  
*New York, NY*

Jacquelin F. Skinner  
*Hockessin, DE*

John W. Sutton, Sr.  
*Forest Hill, MD*

John W. Sutton, Jr.  
*Wilmington, DE*

## Life Members

Dr. David L. Greth, Ph. D.  
*Bucyrus, OH (Forefather)*

Carol Bowman Kehler  
*Broomall, PA*

Anne B. Willis  
*Clarksville, MD*

## Swedish Colonial News

### Publication Committee

Beth Linnerson-Daly, Editor

Peter S. Craig	Brian Daly
Herbert Rambo	John Ramee
Wallace Richter	John W. Widtfeldt
Benkt Wennberg	

**Swedish Colonial News**  
The Swedish Colonial Society  
916 South Swanson Street  
Philadelphia, Pa 19147

Postage