



# Swedish Colonial News

Volume 1, Number 15

Spring, 1997

## GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE

Greetings, every day we see progress being made on the translation of the old records of Gloria Dei Church. The editing of these records by Dr. Peter Craig gives hope that we will enjoy the accounts of the colonial lives of our forefathers as detailed in the doings of the church.

The Swedish Colonial Society was organized in 1908 as seen on the seal and it continues to focus on events of interest in the lives of the Swedish colonizers. Their development and use of the waterways in the Delaware Valley, their governmental and judicial records, some yet to be prepared for publication, have held the interest and support of the Swedish Colonial Society.

The presentation at the Forefathers' Day Luncheon on April 13 at the Corinthian Yacht Club will reflect the ongoing interest and purpose of our Society in the early colonial times. The Kalmar Nyckel has become an icon to the descendants of the early colonists, a symbol of their industry, dedication, and tenacity. We anticipate with high interest the remarks of the leaders of the Kalmar Nyckel Foundation.

I look back with pride and affection at the Society's doings over the past ninety years. Carry on!

*John W. Widtfeldt*

*Note: John Widtfeldt has served us well since the fall of 1995. At the last meeting he chose to step down and turn over the Governor's role to William B. Neal, the Senior Deputy Governor.*



*In recognition of the historic friendship between the Swedes and the Lenni-Lenape, spiritual leader Greysquirrel permitted the sacred friendship pipe to be used in a ceremony with Johan Printz.*

PHOTO: BETH LINNERSON-DALY

## Colonial Society Gives Swedish Flavor To West Jersey Founders Festival

Over 2,000 people from a five-state region turned out on a beautiful fall Sunday, October 6th, for the first West Jersey Founding Families Festival held in New Sweden Park, Swedesboro, NJ. The event honored Native American and colonial families and celebrated the 355th anniversary of the purchase of local property adding to the boundaries of the New Sweden Colony.

The Swedish Colonial Society was among the most active festival participants. There was a large delegation led by Governor and Mrs. John Widtfeldt, past governors Wallace F. Richter and Dr. Erik Tornqvist and Deputy Governor William Neal.

Color Guard Captain John Ramee arranged for the Society's flags of the Delaware Valley to be displayed inside the historic Trinity "Old Swedes" Church. A huge

flag had been hung from the choir loft of the handsome 213 year old red brick structure built by the last of the Swedish clergy, Rev. Nicholas Collin, later rector of Gloria Dei "Old Swedes" Church, Philadelphia.

The Festival's keynote speaker was SCS Historian Dr. Peter S. Craig. He was warmly received by the descendants of the "Ancient Swedes" of West Jersey anxious to learn more about colonial history. Dr. Craig's authoritative book *1693 Census of Swedes on the Delaware* is such a frequently used reference that multiple copies are kept in the Gloucester County (NJ) Historical Society Library, where Edith Hoelle is the director.

Dr. Craig spoke a second time during the memorial service. Associate Chaplain, Rev. Dr. Kim-Eric Williams, offered the "Swedesboro Memorial Prayer" in Swedish.

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## FOREFATHERS

### PETER JOCHIMSSON AND HIS YOCUM DESCENDANTS

Peter Jochimsson, born in Schleswig in Holstein, was enrolled in Gothenburg in September 1642 to serve as a soldier in New Sweden at a wage of ten guilders per month. He sailed to the colony on the *Fama*, the same ship that carried the new Governor, Johan Printz.

In New Sweden, Peter Jochim (as he was usually called) was first assigned to the new Fort Elfsborg near the mouth of present Salem Creek NJ. Later, when the Dutch in 1648 built Fort Beversrede at Passyunk on the Schuylkill, he was transferred to Fort Korsholm on the Schuylkill. The Dutch commander complained that in September 1648 Peter Jochim "contemptuously pulled the palisades of Fort Beversrede apart and broke through them, making use of great insolence by words as well as deeds." The Swedes built a house in front of the Dutch fort, blocking its view from the river. They also prevented Dutch freemen from settling in the area, effectively preserving the trade with the Indians for themselves.

Stuyvesant countered in 1651 by abandoning Fort Beversrede and Fort Nassau (on the east side of the Delaware) and building a new fort at present New Castle (Fort Casimir). To counter this move, Printz sought declarations from the Indians that the new fort was built illegally on land sold by the Indians to the Swedes. Peter Jochimsson was instrumental in obtaining the needed affidavit from the Indians, which was signed at Fort Elfsborg on 3 July 1651.

Shortly thereafter, Peter Jochim married Ella Stille, daughter of Olof Stille. They made their home at Aronameck on the west shore of the Schuylkill. Their first child was born in 1652, and on 1 November 1652 Peter Jochim was granted his discharge and made a freeman.

As a freeman, Peter Jochim joined his father-in-law and 20 other freemen in filing a protest with Governor Printz on 27 July 1653, seeking relief from the Governor's oppressive treatment of the freemen, particularly the Finns. This was the last straw for the tormented Governor, who packed up his substantial belongings and returned to Sweden via New Amsterdam and

Amsterdam.

Upon the arrival of the new Governor, Johan Rising, in May 1654, the Dutch fort surrendered to the Swedes without a shot being fired. Peter Jochim then found his services in demand once more. As one of the few freemen who could read and write and being well-known to the Dutch, Peter Jochim was chosen by Rising to travel overland to New Amsterdam (Manhattan) to deliver a diplomatic letter to Governor Stuyvesant and to find out his intentions towards New Sweden. Peter Jochim and his Indian guide Taques left on 27 May 1654. Taques returned on 25 June with a letter from Jochim reporting that he had become ill in Manhattan and was too sick to return. Shortly thereafter, Rising received a bill from Stuyvesant for 127 guilders for Jochim's burial.

Ella Stille Jochim, widowed at the age of 20, married Hans Månsson later in 1654. He took over operation of the Aronameck plantation and raised her two children by Peter Jochim as his own. In addition, Ella had six additional sons, the eldest of whom, John Hansson, was born in 1655. Hans Månsson died in Senamensing NJ c. 1690. Thereafter, Ella and her sons by her second marriage adopted the surname of Steelman. Ella died in 1718 at the home of her youngest son, Eric Steelman, in Gloucester County NJ.

Peter Jochim and Ella Stille had two children:

1. **Peter Petersson**, born in 1652, grew up in a household where his closest friend was his half-brother, John Hansson Steelman, born in 1655. Both became Indian traders with John Hans Steelman becoming a big-time operator, establishing trading posts in Maryland and Pennsylvania. Peter, however, remained at Aronameck, which became his own in 1681 when Hans Månsson, having moved to New Jersey, sold the tract to **Peter Petersson Yocum**, the new surname which Peter had adopted. It was derived, of course, from his father's patronymic. The new spelling can be blamed on the English clerks. Although many spelling variations are to be found, the surname became standardized as Yocum, except among descendants of Jonas, who chose the Yocum spelling.

Peter Petersson Yocum was married c. 1675 to Judith, daughter of Jonas Nilsson. Aside from farming and trading with the

Indians, Peter also served as an Indian interpreter for William Penn in the negotiation of new treaties and owned a small gristmill on Mill Creek, a creek just south of present Woodlands Cemetery. He died in 1702 and by his will asked to be buried at Gloria Dei Church in Philadelphia. His widow Judith moved to Berks County with two of her younger sons. She died at Manatawny in Berks County in 1727 and is buried at St. Gabriels Church in Douglassville.

Peter Petersson Yocum and Judith Jonasdatter Nilsson had ten children:

> **Peter Yocum**, born 1677, died 1753 in Upper Merion Township; married Elizabeth; one surviving son.

> **Måns Yocum**, born 1678, died 1722 at Aronameck in Kingessing; married Margaret Boon; no children.

> **Catharine Yocum**, born 1681, died 1723; married Swan Justis; 5 children.

> **Charles Yocum**, born 1682, died 1741, Kingessing; married Ann Supplee; one son and one daughter.

> **Swan Yocum**, born 1685, died 1758, Kingessing; married Joanna Collins; two surviving sons.

> **Julia Yocum**, born 1687, not traced.

> **Jonas Yocum**, born 1689, died 1760, Douglass Township, Berks County; married Hannah Enochson; survived by two sons and three daughters.

> **Anders Yocum**, born 1693, died after 1734, Kingessing; married Elizabeth Trollup; survived by one son and three daughters.

> **John Yocum**, born 1696, died 1727, Berks County; never married.

> **Maria Yocum**, born c. 1699; married William Morgan.

2. **Elizabeth Petersdotter**, born in 1654, moved from her home as a teenager to help in the household of her uncle, Anders Stille, living on Christina River. Here she met and married **John Ogle**, an English soldier who had participated in the English conquest of the Delaware in 1664. John Ogle and Rev. Jacob Fabritius were indicted in 1675 for inciting the Swedes and Finns to riot in opposition to orders of the New Castle Court to build a dike and road for Hans Block, a Dutchman.

John Ogle and Anders Stille made their homes at Christiana Bridge, Christina River. Ogle, a big speculator in lands and tobacco, died insolvent in the winter of 1683/4. Adding to his widow's troubles was a 1684 raid

by Colonel James Talbot from Maryland which resulted in the destruction of her hay and the building of a Maryland "fort" on her property. Elizabeth Ogle and Anders Stille then sold their property and moved to White Clay Creek. She lived at the "Hopyard," which had been surveyed for her husband the year before. Unable to pay all of the estate's debts, Elizabeth Ogle was discharged from all further debts of her husband on 17 June 1690 by the New Castle Court. Meanwhile, her brother Peter Petersson Yocum in 1687 had purchased the "Hopyard" to protect it from creditors. Elizabeth died before 12 Sept. 1702 when John Hans Steelman and Judith Yocum, as executors of the Yocum estate, sold the property.

John and Elizabeth Ogle had two sons: > **Thomas Ogle**, born c. 1672, died 1734 in White Clay Creek Hundred, New Castle County; married [1] Mary Crawford, [2] widow Elizabeth Graham.

> **John Ogle**, born c. 1674, died 1720 in White Clay Creek Hundred; married widow Elizabeth Harris.

*Dr. Peter S. Craig*

**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. Action will be taken at the next meeting of the Council.  
**Dues:** Annual, Individual, \$20; Annual, Family (two adults, minor children), \$25; Life Membership, \$300.  
 Mail to Wallace Richter, 336 S. Devon Avenue, Wayne, Pa 19087-2927.



Author's reassessment of the manner in which the several red deer hair-decorated objects were probably worn. Rear and front views.

DRAWING: PAUL OESTREICHER

## Lenape and/or Susquehannock Treasures in Skokloster Castle, Sweden

by Dr. Herbert C. Kraft

*Excerpt from an article published in the Bulletin of the Archaeological Society of New Jersey, Issue No. 50, 1995.*

An invitation to present at the 48th International Congress of Americanists brought Herbert Kraft to Sweden and to Skokloster Castle to see 17th century ethnographic items from the New Sweden Colony. The collection, the finest of its kind, consists of what scholars interpret to be a headdress, wolf's head pendant, wolf's head quiver, a pendant breast ornament, two woven porcupine quill-decorated tumplines, and two unique ball-headed war clubs.

This remarkable collection is nestled in a wooden "steamer trunk" in a fourth-floor tower of Skokloster "slott." The castle, one of eleven owned by Count Carl Gustaf Wrangel, is located in a picturesque setting near the university town of Uppsala.

Skokloster Castle was built by Carl Gustaf Wrangel and served, in part, as his curio cabinet or museum. The Count cherished the finer things; he commissioned paintings and collected scientific instruments, books, ethnographic specimens, arms and armour, and other strange and exotic objects. All of these things are in almost perfect condition for three reasons. First, there is no heat in the castle. In the winter, the temperature plunges well below zero, killing any insects or larvae that might ordinarily destroy the specimens. Second, for over three hundred years the collection has been placed in much the same way as when Carl Gustaf Wrangel lived, and the specimens are rarely touched. Third, Wrangel's expressed wishes that the collection be kept intact have been honored by his successors.

There is, unfortunately, no documentary evidence concerning any of these items, and the earliest known catalogue entries date from A. D. 1710. It is not certain how these items came into Wrangel's possession, or where they came from. A number of explanations have been set forth including an unconfirmed report that states:

"...an Indian chief...sent the objects as a gift to Queen Christina, but since she, as a woman, was not allowed to receive them directly from the donor, they were presented to the founder of Skokloster, Carl Gustaf



*Stig Ryden's (1963) conception of how the two wolf's head objects, headdress, and breast ornament were combined (incorrectly) into one elaborate ceremonial outfit.*

Wrangel. Another version says that the gift was intended as encouragement to (king) Karl X Gustaf during the war."

Herman Wrangel, Carl Gustaf's father, knew Johan Printz, the first governor of the colony and signed the instructions given to Johan Printz when he was assigned the governorship of New Sweden.

Governor Printz is quoted as saying of the local Indians' craftsmanship, "They are clever in the dealings and doings, skilled in making all kinds of things from lead, copper and tin, and also carve skillfully in wood."

Well over 350 years later Herbert Kraft states "I am greatly impressed by the quality and intricacy of the workmanship so beautifully displayed in these objects....Now, having been privileged to see and handle these marvelous examples of local art and craftsmanship preserved at Skokloster Castle, I confess to being overawed by the great skill and pride of workmanship manifested in these artifacts."

**NOTE:** Dr. Herbert Kraft is the Director of the Archaeological Research Center. We appreciate his willingness to print excerpts in our newsletter. For further information about this article or related research contact him at the Seton Hall University Museum, Room 8 Fahy Hall, South Orange, NJ 07079-2696. or call (201)761-9543.



The commanding figure of Johan Printz portrayed by David Lewis.



SCS Historian Dr. Peter S. Craig was the keynote speaker at the West Jersey Founding Families Festival.



Kapten Norberg commanded a detachment of Royal Swedish Musketeers who set up an authentic 1643 colonial military camp in New Sweden Park.

PHOTOS: BETH LINNERSON-DALY

**Rev. James E. Evans**, Christ "Old Swedes" Church, Upper Merion, PA. spoke during the impressive service conducted by Venerable Canon Robert N. Willing, representing the Bishop of New Jersey. **Society Councillor Herbert Rambo** served as festival chairman and was assisted by many others, including **Eleanor Homan Spencer** and **Councillor Tina Lassen**. Edith Auten Rohrman, daughter of the late Rev. Parker Auten, rector emeritus of Trinity, was instrumental in the organizing efforts.

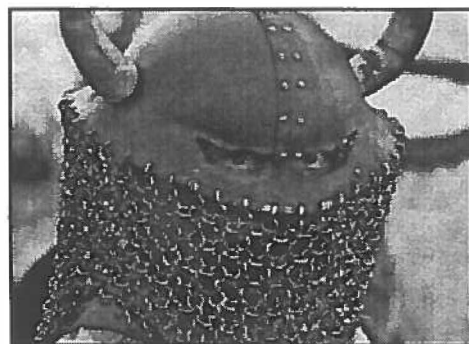
**Dr. J.H.T. Rambo** of New York City and **Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Mattson**, Macedon, NY, were among those representing Ancient Swedes' families such as Dalbo, Mattsson, Homan, Stille, Poulson, Helm, Lock, Hoffman, Rambo and others, all of whom share Trinity "Old Swedes" as their family's ancestral church.

Recording secretary **Malcolm Mackenzie**, curator of the Kalmar Nyckle Museum Institute, Wilmington, DE., provided a display of rare artifacts from colonial times. More than a dozen West Jersey colonial crafters showed their artistry, Royal Swedish Colonial Musketeers operated from an authentic campsite while **David Anderson** and colonial naturalist David Ambrose of the "Friends of the Swedish Cabin," Media, PA, explained the rigors of daily life more than three centuries ago.

One of the most thrilling festival sights was the colorful performance by the Lenni-Lenape Sacred Tribal Dancers. In recogni-

tion of the historic friendship between the "Ancient Swedes" and the Lenni-Lenape, Tribal Leader Kenneth "Like an Eagle Watching" Ridgeway and Spiritual Leader Lewis "Grey Squirrel" Pierce smoked the sacred friendship pipe with His Excellency, Governor Johan Printz, portrayed by **David Lewis**.

The vivid red and white sail of the Leif Erickson Viking Ship, *The Norseman*, Philadelphia, PA. headed by **Dennis Johnson**, stood out against the brilliant sky as children swarmed around **Gene Martenson** and other swashbuckling costumed Norsemen and a solitary Norse dog. Young students from the local performing arts school made their first appearance in blue and yellow dress and the crackle of musket fire could be heard as the Swedish Musketeers went through their drill.



Above and Right: Leif Erickson's Viking ship crew members from, *The Norseman*.

Left: Colonial Naturalist George Ambrose (shown) and David Anderson, Friends of the Swedish Cabin, Drexel Hill, Pa., were a popular attraction as they explained the rigors of daily life in New Sweden.

PHOTOS: BETH LINNERSON-DALY

**Note: Swedish Colonial Society members are printed in bold face type.**



**UPDATE**

## Memorial Bricks Help Preserve Church

Trinity "Old Swedes" Church parish is in the midst of a \$700,000 restoration program started three years ago when civil engineers determined that the church roof was on the verge of collapse. Still remaining to be raised are \$365,000 in this important fund-raising effort.

The church at Raccoon was founded by the Swedish American congregation in 1703 and they worshipped in a log cabin that would serve them for more than 80 years. During the Revolutionary War, British troops from the Army of Lord Cornwallis arrived in Swedesboro to burn the church, as it was considered a hot bed for revolutionary activities. When they arrived, Trinity Church Rector Reverend Nicholas Collin was conducting a funeral service. Legend has it that the Swedish cleric's appearance was quite similar to the Church of England clergy and it caused confusion. For whatever reason, the soldiers paused and decided to burn the log cabin school instead.

To replace the deteriorated cabin, the handsome red brick new church, the "Cathedral in the Wilderness," was built in 1786 under the direction of Reverend Nicholas Collin, last of the Swedish clergy. It is the largest of the "Eight Sisters" as the churches of colonial New Sweden are sometimes called.

Following the cessation of the Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Mission in America, Trinity was among the churches making an orderly transition into an affiliation with the Episcopal Church.

The Episcopal Bishop of Pennsylvania convinced a young priest--Reverend John Croes--to accept the pulpit at Swedesboro. The priest had been an illiterate regiment drummer boy serving in the Revolutionary War. He learned to read and write from a fellow soldier who would trace letters on the drum head.

After accepting the new assignment he had to walk from Philadelphia to his new parish because he was too poor to hire a horse.

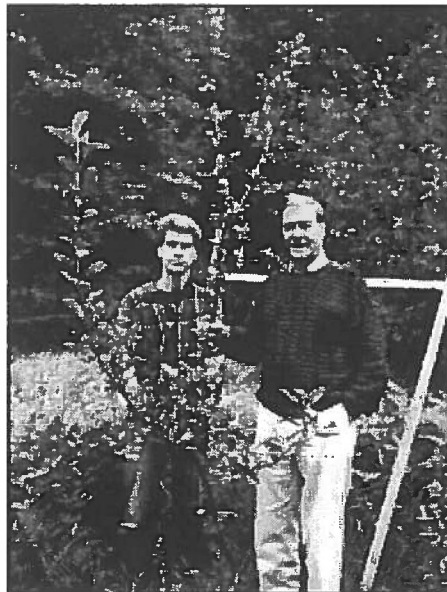
When he arrived to the area of Woodbury, NJ he paused at the Death of the Fox Inn. Inside, he saw a drunk in the corner entertaining his drunken friends. He looked

closely and saw it was Joseph Coleman, his old comrade in arms, the man who had taught him how to read. Reverend Croes convinced Coleman to come with him to Swedesboro, where he installed him as the new school teacher. Reverend Croes went on to become the first Episcopal Bishop of New Jersey and Coleman eventually became Secretary of the State of New Jersey.

Recently, Swedish Colonial Society Treasurer Clifford Holgren announced that our Society had purchased a "memorial brick" to be used in a monument honoring the early colonists. The project will raise needed funds to preserve the only public building in New Jersey remaining from the New Sweden era.

Currently, \$330,000 has been raised and \$130,000 remains of the first phase of the reconstruction process. After this debt is cleared, a second phase (repairs for the church steeple) will begin, projected at a cost of \$235,000. It is believed the same craftsmen who built the clock tower at Independence Hall in Philadelphia built this steeple.

Memorial bricks honoring families or individual colonists can be obtained for \$300 tax deductible. To make pledge arrangements, or to obtain further information, please contact Edith Auten Rohrman of the Trinity Historic Preservation Trust, at (609) 467-1227 or Box 31, Swedesboro, NJ 08085.



SCS members Michael Rambo and his father, J. H. Thomas Rambo, M. D., flank one of the Rambo apple trees they have been growing. Dr. Rambo, a prominent New York City physician, and his son are direct descendants of Peter Gunnarson Rambo who brought apple seeds from Sweden aboard the *Kalmer Nyckel*.

**EDUCATION**

## Rambo Apple Trees



Jeff Platt and Brian Owen water the Summer Rambo tree in their Wild Site. PHOTO: MRS. MYERS

Since 1988 students from the Samuel Mickle School, Mickleton, NJ have been involved with their Swedish ancestry. Matthew Smith, a direct descendant of Peter Gunnarsson Rambo introduced us to his teacher. This led to a seven year exchange with several schools in Jönköping, Sweden.

Many forefather families are united by their relationship to Peter Gunnarson Rambo and Brita Mattsdotter Rambo, either by direct descent, or through marriages over the past three and half centuries. The size of this family is put into perspective by noting that throughout the United States there are more than 2,300 published telephone listings for Rambo. Considering spouses, children, and the number of households with unlisted numbers there could easily be 10,000 persons with the Rambo surname. However, when all family members of various surnames are counted, Dr. Craig has mathematically estimated that the total number of Rambo descendants are well over one million. "But," he added, "don't ask me to name them all."

Recently the Swedish Colonial Society presented a fledgling Rambo Apple Tree to the students of Samuel Mickle School. They have planted it in their Wild Site along with pear and cherry trees and eucalyptus shrubs.

They are still receiving letters and communications from students in Jönköping. We all hope this small tree will one day bear fruit in remembrance of the first Swedish apple tree brought to America from which it is descended 355 years later.

Beth Linnerson-Daly, Education

NOTE: Anyone interested in buying a Summer Rambo tree can purchase them for \$17.75 each, from Miller Nurseries 5060 West Lake Road, Canandaigua, NY 14424.



350 YEARS AGO**NEW SWEDEN IN 1647:  
A RECONSTRUCTED  
CENSUS**

It had been a quiet year in New Sweden. The *Gyllene Haj* had arrived from Sweden the previous October, bringing needed supplies, but no new settlers. The ship spent the winter offshore from Fort Christina and as of late February 1647 was loaded with tobacco for the return voyage.

On 20 Feb. 1647, Governor Printz wrote a detailed report on conditions in the colony. He reported that Fort Elfsborg was "tolerably secure," that Fort Christina had been totally rebuilt and that a third major fort, Fort Korsholm, in the Schuylkill (on an island later known as Peter Cock's Island and Providence Island), was "almost ready." The fire which had destroyed the buildings on Tinicum Island, 25 Nov. 1645, had led to the building of a new Printzhof and a new log church, both of which were better than their predecessors. Printz also had his own small fort on the island, Fort New Gothenburg.

The threat previously posed by the English Puritans from New Haven was now over. They had left their settlement on Salem Creek NJ the previous fall. There was no serious trouble with the Dutch. The Indians had been quiet and peaceful since 1644.

The people were healthy and thriving. No one had died in the preceding year and new children were being born. The last of those settlers who had been sent over for punishment had been freed in October 1647 and been given the option of working for the New Sweden Company at ten guilders per month or becoming freemen.

The experiment in growing tobacco having been a failure, most freemen were now growing grain. Over 70% of the tobacco being shipped to Sweden had been purchased from Virginia.

The new watermill on Mill (Cobb's) Creek was in operation and five freemen lived in the strong house there called Mölndal. Another seven freemen lived at the new strong house called Vasa at Kingessing on the path used by the Minquas Indians bringing furs from the interior.

Other freemen and company workers lived in older communities at Tinicum Island, Techoherassi (Ridley Creek), Upland Creek, "Finland" (between Upland Creek

and Marcus Hook), Christina (Wilmington) and Timber Island on the Brandywine.

Set forth below is a reconstructed census of the New Sweden colony, as of February 1647, listing each of the 95 men (including teen-age youths) in the colony. The total population, including wives and children, was approximately 150-175.

The 95 identified males break down in three categories -

39 "Crown servants," including the governor, the pastor and all military personnel, who were supported by the Swedish government. Of these, only the governor, the pastor and Lt. Kling had wives and children with them in New Sweden.

28 "Company servants," who drew salaries from the New Sweden Company. Only four or five lived with wives and children.

28 "freemen" who generally were on their own. About half of them were married. In the following listings the monthly salary of all servants was 10 guilders per month except where shown otherwise in parentheses.

**Crown Servants**

Johan Printz, Governor, with family (167)  
Måns Nilsson Kling, Lieutenant, @ family (40)  
Sven Svensson Skute, Lieutenant (40)  
Johan Campanius, pastor, with family (25)  
Hans Janeke, barber surgeon (25)  
Anders Larsson Dalbo, provost (15)  
Johan Mattsson, gunner (20)  
Anders Svensson Bonde, gunner  
Nicklas Björk, corporal (15)  
Eric Anderson, trumpeter (15)  
Sven Andersson, drummer (12)  
Marten Hansson Rosbrack, soldier  
Johan Ericksson, soldier  
Jacob Lucasson Sprint, soldier  
Pål Jönsson, soldier  
Hendrick Mattsson, soldier  
Johan Anderson Stålkofa, soldier  
Hendrick Olofsson, Finn, soldier  
Hans Lüneberger, soldier  
Lars Andersson of Sollentuna, soldier  
Jonas Nilsson, soldier  
Lars Jacobsson, soldier  
Elias Gyllengren, soldier  
Jürgen Schneeweiss (Keen), soldier  
Johan Gustafsson, soldier  
Anders Andersson Homman, soldier  
Peter Meyer, soldier  
Constantinius Grönenberg, soldier  
Johan Olofsson, soldier  
Peter Jochimsson, soldier  
Isaac Van Eissen, soldier  
Jacob Svensson, soldier  
Nils Andersson Snickare, soldier  
Johan Andersson, soldier  
Anders Jönsson, soldier  
Bengt Hendricksson, soldier

Eric Åkesson Totte, soldier  
Knut Liljehök, soldier  
Valerius Lohe, soldier

**Company Servants**

Hendrick Huygen, commissary (60)  
Gottfried Harmar, his assistant  
Gregorius Van Dyck, sheriff (25)  
Carl Johansson, storekeeper (25)  
Knut Persson, scribe (20)  
Dirk Jacobsson, skipper of the sloop (25)  
Bengt Thorsson, sailor on sloop  
Lars Thomasson Bur, sailor on sloop  
Lars Andersson Ulf, sailor on sloop  
Per Andersson, skipper of Governor's yacht  
Claes Claesson, Jr., Dutch, carpenter (26)  
Thomas Jöransson, carpenter (20)  
Måns Olofsson Pipare, wood sawyer  
Laurens Andriessen, Dutch, cooper (20)  
Lucas Petersson, cooper  
Michel Nilsson, blacksmith (20)  
Hans Rosbrack & family, blacksmith (20)  
Anders Christiansson, miller  
Sven Larsson Maarbo, laborer  
Lars Svensson, Finn, & family, laborer (6)  
Mårten Göttersson, laborer  
Ivert Hendricksson, Finn, laborer  
Olof Ericksson, laborer  
Eskil Larsson, laborer  
Lars Björnsson, laborer  
Olof Thorsson & family, laborer  
Anders Claesson Mink, cattle guard (7)  
Sven Svensson, cattle guard (4)

**Freemen**

Claes Johansson & family  
Anthony Swart, Angolan  
Peter Gunnarsson Rambo & family  
Måns Andersson & family  
Johan Thorsson Schagen & family  
Sven Gunnarsson & family  
Måns Svensson Lom & family  
Olof Petersson Stille & family  
Axel Petersson Stille  
Matts Hansson & family  
Anders Hansson & family  
Matts Hansson from Borgå  
Peter Larsson Kock & family  
Christopher Rettel & family  
Ivert Sivertsson  
Knut Mårtensson  
Hans Månsson  
Måns Jöransson, Finn, & family  
Clement Jöransson, Finn, & family  
Eskil Larsson, Finn, & family  
Bärtil Eskilsson, Finn (his son)  
Hendrick Mattsson, Finn  
Mårten Mårtensson Glasare  
Anders Andersson, Finn, & family  
Claes Andersson Mink, youth  
Israel Åkesson Helm, youth (orphan)  
Jöns Olsson, youth (orphan)  
Gustaf Printz, youth (Governor's son)

Dr. Peter S. Craig

YEAR 2000 PROJECT

## EARLY RESULTS OF TRANSLATORS' WORK

### The Gabriel Näsman-Peter Kock Dispute, 250 Years Ago

Work progresses on translating and transcribing the colonial records of Gloria Dei Church. Early results cast new light on the trials and tribulations of both pastors and members of Old Swedes, including the bitter feud between Peter Kock and Rev. Gabriel Näsman 250 years ago.

Näsman, born 14 April 1714 in Sweden and ordained at Uppsala in May 1742, had arrived in Philadelphia, 23 Oct. 1743, to fill the pulpit at Gloria Dei, which had been vacant since the death of the much-loved John Dylander, 2 Nov. 1741. Peter Kock, also a native of Sweden, born in 1704, was a wealthy merchant in Philadelphia and a close friend of Rev. Henry Muhlenberg, who had arrived in 1742. Kock was also a trustee of Gloria Dei and, through the force of his personality, controlled the trustees' actions. Almost immediately, Peter Kock and Gabriel Näsman clashed. Kock urged that the Swedish and German Lutheran churches form a union. Näsman opposed. Kock argued that Swedish-Americans who joined the Moravian movement could not be considered good Lutherans. Näsman disagreed. Näsman was supposed to receive his salary from rents collected from those renting church land, but the deeds were held by the trustees and Kock was slow to pay such rents to Näsman, who was forced to borrow money for his own sustenance. Kock tried to arrange for Näsman and Peter Tranberg, pastor at Holy Trinity in Wilmington, to swap pastorates, but Näsman dragged his feet.

This feud reached the boiling point on 16 May 1747 at the annual meeting of the full vestry at Gloria Dei. Näsman and some of the vestrymen demanded that the trustees execute a deed of trust, recognizing that the church lands they held were held in trust for the Swedish Lutheran Church. The trustees refused. The trustees demanded that Näsman

resign. He refused, saying he would leave only if a majority of the congregation so voted. No vote was taken. However, the congregation did vote him £50 back pay.

A furious Peter Kock announced that he would take his case to the Archbishop and Consistory in Sweden, pointing out to them that Näsman was unfit to continue as minister at Gloria Dei because (1) his sermons were too long, (2) the sermons were too passionate, and (3) Näsman had married without the issuance of banns (public announcement of a proposed marriage on three Sundays) as required by the Church.

Three months earlier, a marriage license had been granted to the "Swedish Minister" (unnamed) and "Rambo" (no first name given). This proved to be a reference to Margaret Rambo of Pennypack, born in 1731, whose ancestors included not only Peter Gunnarsson Rambo but also Captain Sven Skute. She and Gabriel were married at Gloria Dei, 6 Feb. 1747.

On 30 May 1747 Gabriel Näsman drafted his reply to Kock's charges. He admitted that his sermons were long and passionate. That was necessary because too many Swedes attended church very infrequently and also needed to be kept awake. As for his marriage without the issuance of banns, he pointed out that this procedure was legal under Pennsylvania law sanctioning marriage by government license. His predecessor Dylander had also married this way.

Näsman continues: "And the act was not done in secret. Although Mr. Kock declined to come, he was nonetheless invited. And, without him I had more than 80 to 100 gentlemen or ladies filling five rooms who honored my ceremony. Moreover, I did it in church, which Swedish pastors have not generally done here."

"But it was not so much my marriage by license, but much more my marriage in itself which caused Mr. Kock's indignation, since I in one move became related to almost the whole congregation. Thus, my marriage pushed overboard, through the mercy of God, the whole plan to drive me out. The

Rambo family is the greatest of them here, and of the most honest, and my wife counted among the most virtuous."

Rev. John Sandin, appointed the new Provost of the Swedish Lutheran Church's American Mission and pastor of the churches at Racoon and Penn's Neck, arrived in early 1748 and wrote back to Sweden in September: "The issue between Gentleman Kock and Master Näsman still stands as before. They are both wrong and neither of them wants to give in, even though I have tried, for better or worse, to persuade Näsman to begin reconciliation."

Sandin died unexpectedly in October 1748 and Peter Kock and his allies took the opportunity to write Uppsala again asking that Näsman be replaced. Among the arguments made: "In blessed Pastor Dylander's time the Swedish church here in Wicaco was so filled with people that a great part often had to stand outside windows and doors. They have now absented themselves so that hardly 4, 6, 8 or 10 people are present on any Sunday."

Peter Kock died 9 Sept. 1749 and was laid to rest at Gloria Dei by his arch enemy, Gabriel Näsman. However, at the time, Rev. Israel Acrelius and Rev. Olof Parlin were already en route from Sweden carrying word that Parlin was to replace Näsman at Gloria Dei.

Näsman delayed his return to Sweden, demanding payment of his back salary to pay off his creditors. This finally accomplished, he returned to Sweden alone. His first son, Johannes Immanuel Näsman, died 15 August 1750 at the age of one year and 11 months. His second, David, was born 22 March 1751. If he lived, he remained in America with Näsman's wife, Margaret Rambo, who appears in Gloria Dei records as a baptismal sponsor on 24 April 1754.

After returning to Sweden, Näsman married Boel Katrina Stuberius. He died in Kristianstad, 21 Feb. 1777.

*Dr. Peter S. Craig*

**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.

## New Officers

1997-1998

William B. Neal  
*Governor*

Herbert R. Rambo  
*Senior Deputy Governor*

Mrs. George McFarland  
*Junior Deputy Governor*

Rev. David B. Rivers  
*Secretary*

Malcolm Mckenzie  
*Recording Secretary*

Clifford Holgren  
*Treasurer*

Wallace F. Richter  
*Registrar*

David C. Anderson  
*Captain of Color Guard*

John C. Cameron, Esq.  
*Counsellor*

Rev. David Rivers  
C. Reed Brinkman  
*Chaplains*

Dr. Peter Stebbins Craig  
*Historian*

## Other Councillors

Barbara Almquist  
David R. Anderson  
Gosta Baeckstrom  
Julie Jensen Bryan  
DeAnn Clancy  
Brian Daly  
Beth Linnerson-Daly  
Ulf Hammerskjold  
Marie Bates Hiscock  
Consul Bengt Jansson  
Christina Lassen  
Ambassador Carl Henrick Nauckhoff  
Elisabet Nauckhoff  
John Ramee  
Katerina Sheronas  
Peter Sheronas  
Linda Smith  
Susie Spackman  
Rev. Kim-Eric Williams

## UPCOMING EVENTS

April 13, 1997

**Forefathers' Day Luncheon** of the Swedish Colonial Society, Corinthian Yacht Club, Tinicum Island, 12:00 noon. Kalmar Nyckel Foundation Executive Director Margaret Tighe Fillos will outline the long term plans for the shipyard and the area around the historic "Rocks" at Fort Christina, Delaware. For ticket information call Clifford Holgren (610) 525-1636.

April 27, 1997

**Annual Kalmar Nyckel Foundation Champagne Brunch**, at the historic "Big Bend Estate," Frolic-Weymouth, DE, benefits the Foundation's shipbuilding program. The 11:00 am - 2:00 pm event costs \$50 per person. For information call (302) 429-7447.

May 4, 1997

**SCS Annual Visitation to Gloria Dei "Old Swedes" Church**, 11:00 am, 916 Swanson St., Philadelphia commemorates the 359th anniversary of the founding of the New Sweden Colony. All members invited. For information call Wallace Richter (610) 688-1766.

May 7-10, 1997

**Genealogy Conference**, Valley Forge Convention Center, King of Prussia, sponsored by the National Genealogical Society and Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania. Booksellers' booths and 200 lectures to choose from, including two by Dr. Peter Craig, "Surname Selection among the 17th century Scandinavian and Dutch settlers of the Delaware" (3:30 pm, May 7) and "Pre-Penn Records for Pennsylvania and Delaware" (8:30 am, May 8).

May 17, 1997

**Fifth Annual Governor Printz Challenge**, a two person flat water amateur canoe race along Darby Creek, starts from the John Heinz Natural Wildlife Refuge Visitor's Center, and ends at Printz Park. The race is sponsored by the Friends of the Swedish Cabin, Upper Merion, PA. Registration (\$15) begins at 9:00 am. For information call David C. Anderson (610) 449-3577.

May 17 & 18, 1997

**New Sweden Militia Muster and Farmstead Open House**, Bridgeton, NJ. Colonial Swedish Musketeers encamped for weekend at the Farmstead Museum Open House. For Information call (609) 455-9785 and leave message.

May 22, 1997

**Fourth Annual Trinity "Old Swedes" Church Golf Tournament**, Woodbury (NJ) Country Club. Proceeds reduce historic preservation debt. The entry fee is \$100 (all fees, dinner and prizes)

and Patron Ads (including dinner) are \$25.

For information call (609) 467-1227 or send remittance to Box 31, Swedesboro, NJ 08085.

June 8, 1997

**ASHM Midsommarfest**, celebrate the traditional Scandanavian holiday. The New York Swedish Folk Dancers are featured performers. Celebration between 12:30 pm and 4:00 pm at the Museum, 1900 Pattison Avenue, Philadelphia, PA. For further information call (215) 389-1776.

June 8, 1997

**The Finn's Arrival in New Sweden Commemoration** celebrates the colonial Finns and their contributions to New Sweden and America. Held at the Finnish First Settlers Monument, Crozier Park, Chester, PA. The 2:00 pm event is sponsored by Delaware Valley Finnish Americans and the American Finnish Society of the Delaware Valley and is followed by 3:30 pm dinner (cost \$20) at the Corinthian Yacht Club, 2nd and Taylor Avenues, Essington, PA. For further information and reservations call Viola Palo (302) 368-1001.

September 6, 1997

**The ASHM Crayfish Party**. In Sweden the crayfish party marks the end of summer. In the Philadelphia region, the ASHM Crayfish Party marks the change of seasons. Reservations required, at the Museum, 1900 Pattison Avenue, Philadelphia, PA. For information call (215) 389-1776.

September 27, 1997

**Mouns Jones Fair** at Old Morlattan Village, Douglassville, Berks County, sponsored by Historic Preservation Trust of Berks County. A good day to visit St. Gabriels ("Old Swedes") Church and the historic Mouns Jones house and White Horse Inn.

(See Issue # 2, Fall 1990 of the Swedish Colonial News)

September 28, 1997

**Launching of the Kalmar Nyckel** (tentative) at the Kalmar Nyckel Foundation Shipyard, 1124 East 7th Street, Wilmington, DE. For information call (302) 429-7447.

*His Royal Highness, Prince Bertil, died January 5, 1997. He paid an official royal visit to America during the 300th anniversary ceremonies held in 1938 at the age of 26. When his father became ill and could not attend the young and handsome prince made a speech greatly admired by the large crowd. Prince Bertil was Deputy High Patron of the Swedish Colonial Society. A moment of silence will be observed at our April Forefathers' Luncheon to honor his memory.*



## Julmiddag

The Christmas Dinner, **Julmiddag**, celebrated December 8, 1996 at the Merion Cricket Club was stimulative to our senses. Dinner was tastefully served. The Lucia procession was a pleasure to watch and to hear; the flowers were vivid and made a seasonal visual impact. The Swedish national anthem and the Star Spangled Banner together touched our hearts.



Above: Gosta Baeckstrom key note speaker, author of *Journey of a Happy Viking*.

Below: Rev. Kim Eric Williams presented the invocations and the benediction.

Photos: Beth Linnerson-Daly



The Lucia pageant was led by Linda Rutenius our Lucia. She is an exchange student from Stockholm, and niece of Councillor Katarina Sheronas. She is flanked on both sides by her attendants, Katarina Sheronas and Beth Weir.

PHOTO: Beth Linnerson-Daly



The guest speaker, Gosta Baeckstrom, author of the recently published book, *Journey of the Happy Viking*, shared photographs of Sweden through a slide presentation-- *A Picture Tour of Sweden*. The photographs had been taken during his travels there. The pictures were of professional quality, beautiful to see. What made the difference, however, was not just the spectacular views of this beautiful country, but the charm and wit of the man who had been there and taken the pictures.

The Lucia procession was directed by Katerina Sheronas who coached the girls,

selected the music and created a polished event. It was her niece, Linda Rutenius, who was the Lucia.

We thank Esther Ann McFarland for her guidance in arranging the dinner menu. many thanks to May Holgren for the artfully arranged flowers.

John W. Widtfeldt

## NEW FOREFATHER MEMBERS

**Rev. Kim-Eric Williams**, West Chester PA, descended from **Olof Stille** via **Anders Stille** of Christina River DE.

**Ellen Ohnmacht**, South River NY, descended from **Peter Jochimsson** via **Peter Peterson Yocum** and his son **Charles Yocum**.

**William Robert Wilson**, Norfolk, VA, descended from **Peter Gunnarsson Rambo** via **Gunnar Rambo** of Upper Merion Township, Montgomery County PA.

**William Robert Stevenson**, Vero Beach FL, descended from **Knut Mårtensson** via **Mårten Knutsson** of Marcus Hook PA.

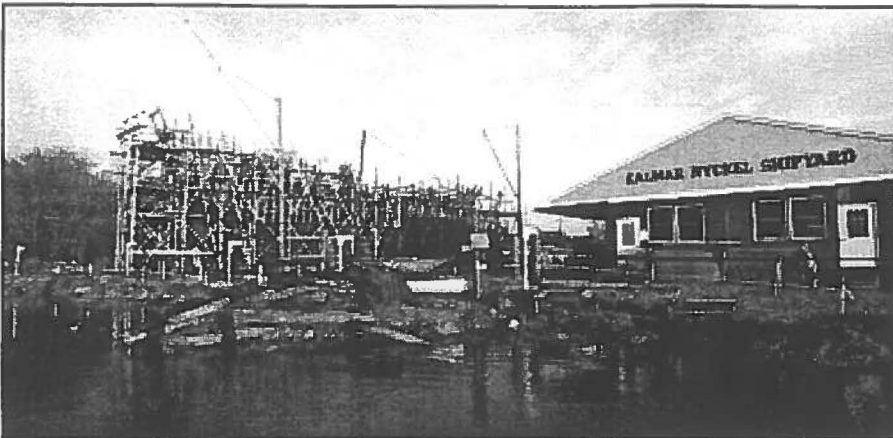
**Dorothea Bedinger Clymer**, Placentia CA, descended from **Governor Johan Printz** via **Catharina Elisabet Printz**, who married **Göran Bengtsson Pilefelt** in Sweden.

**John Marc Wheat**, Arlington VA, descended from **Peter Nilsson Lykins** via **Anders Lykins** of Amity Township, Berks County PA.

**F. Leif Eareckson**, Annapolis MD, descended from **Johan Ericksson** via **Matthias Eareckson** of Kent Island MD. (Eight generations of his Eareckson ancestors lived on Kent Island.)

## Past Governors Serving as Exofficio Councillors

Conrad Wilson  
Herbert E. H. Gullberg  
Dr. Benkt Wennberg  
Dr. Erik G. M. Tornqvist  
Wallace F. RichterJohn  
C. Cameron, Esq  
John W. Widtfeldt.



Construction Scaffolding conceals the majestic lines of Kalmar Nyckel as work continues on the banks of the historic Christina River, near "The Rocks."

PHOTO: CHRIS QUEENEY

## Congratulations !

The Kalmar Nyckel Foundation have made enormous progress with the building of the ship which is scheduled for christening next fall. We are privileged to have the Kalmar Nyckel Foundation Executive Director Margaret Tigue Fillos as the keynote speaker at our spring Forefathers' Luncheon. She will outline the long term plans for the shipyard and the area around the historic "Rocks" at Fort Christina Delaware State Park.

Joel Welter, Naval Architect, will also present a slide presentation which chronicles the construction of the replica of the majestic 17th century tall ship which made four trans-Atlantic crossings beginning in 1638, bringing many of the Swedish ancestors to this country.

At the upcoming Forefathers' Luncheon Professor Gunilla Sjöberg will introduce Professor Ann Jenner and the student who is the 1997 recipient of the Dr. Amandus Johnson Scholarship at the University of Pennsylvania. For ticket information, call Wallace F. Richter (610) 688-1766.

## New Members

David C. Anderson

Havertown, PA

Margaret Sooy Bridwell

Berwyn, PA

Captain F. Leif & Jean Eareckson

Annapolis, MD

Harry Folger

Woodbine, NJ

Alice Christenson Griffin

Ambler, PA

John W. Jacobson

West Caldwell, NJ

Kendall Peterson

Princeton Junction, NJ

Robert H. Selles

Philadelphia, PA

Edith Scholl Tomlinson

Mullica Hill, NJ

John Marc Wheat

Arlington, VA

Cdr. and Mrs William Wilson

USN-Retired

Norfolk, VA

## Life Members

Francis C. Fekel

Nashville, Tennessee

Dorothy W. Hocker

Ardmore, PA

C. Matthew Peterson, MD

Bountiful, Utah

## Honorary Member

Rev. Barbara Harris

Swedesboro, NJ

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