



THE SWEDISH COLONIAL SOCIETY

# JOURNAL

## THE TOBACCO DEBACLE

*The Queen's Decree  
Quashes Monopoly*

VOLUME 7, NUMBER 1 | SPRING 2023

PRESERVING THE LEGACY OF THE NEW SWEDEN COLONY IN AMERICA



## THE SWEDISH COLONIAL SOCIETY

916 SOUTH SWANSON STREET, PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19147

### SCS Consolidation proceeds apace in Tinicum

As I write this, we are preparing for our annual Forefathers' Luncheon at the Lazaretto Ballroom here in Tinicum Township, Pennsylvania, just opposite the Lazaretto and within hailing distance of the Farmstead. After our cocktail hour and luncheon, the greeting of our Forefather members, the brief business meetings, and the presentation by historian Dr. Jean Soderlund, our members will be able to take a walking tour of our new rooms in the Lazaretto and the Farmstead. Professor Soderlund, emeritus of Lehigh University, will discuss her findings regarding the Lenape and the Swedes and Finns of colonial West Jersey as she has written of them in her new book, *Separate Paths: Lenapes and Colonists in West New Jersey*. It should be an enjoyable afternoon.



Our guests will then be able to visit the two new SCS-assigned rooms in the Lazaretto, a stately and "august Georgian double-brick building," built in 1799 to be a quarantine hospital and now beautifully restored, with a sweeping veranda extending its entire length of 130 feet and with a full view of the Delaware River just across the front lawn. In the hallway on the way up to the Society's exhibition room on the second floor, we will be able to view the 72" long by 38" high copy of the first map of Philadelphia of 1686 by Thomas Holme showing the names of Swedish property owners from Chester to Germantown. On the second floor, visitors will see the exhibit room which will house the fascinating art and artifacts listed and described in former Governor John Tepe's Journal article in the Summer 2020 issue. Former Governor Kim-Eric Williams and his partner Ruth Rizzi have been hard at work carrying out the transfer of these items from the Lutheran Seminary Library in Mt. Airy. They have been working steadily over months with the Lazaretto Preservation committee or LPATT headed by Herb MacCombie and Dr. David Barnes, historian, professor at Penn, and author of a soon-to-be-published book on the Lazaretto.

They have also been just as hard at work on the New Sweden Study Center which will occupy another fine room just above, up on the third floor. Visitors will find there the society's archives and reference library with ample table space for researchers. Or they can head to the Farmstead which has been a steady draw for a stream of visitors since it was built in 2020. Our volunteer interpreters hold an Open House every first Saturday of the month from 11 to 2, in the summer at the township's eight Farmers' Markets on Wednesday afternoons from 4:30 to 7:30, and on three special township days throughout the year. Folks from the surrounding community stop by while they're out walking in the riverfront Governor Printz Park. Often young families with small children come to be enchanted by the fire in the hearth or the stalls in the stable and barn. Recently, during the March Open House, a reporter from Swedish Radio, Mr. Mats Carlsson-Lenart, came to interview us for an upcoming show. I confess I am often also enchanted when I'm at the Farmstead. After all, it was designed and built by a man steeped in Swedish folklore and tradition, Gunnar Zetterquist of Dala-Floda, Dalarna County, Sweden, who when he designed the Farmstead was imagining how the Swedish and Finnish colonists would have built their homes in the American wilderness in the 17th century.

I know most of our members don't live nearby, but nevertheless I would urge you to consider visiting the Farmstead when we hold Open House or by appointment--use the email below. Or simply come on your own. The signage near the Farmstead provides a good primer in New Sweden history, the Park is beautiful on most days, and the figure of Governor Johan Printz stands vigilant always.

*Joseph P. Mathews*

Joseph P. Mathews  
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# HIGHLIGHTS



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Debacle  
*The Queen's Decree  
Quashes Monopoly*  
by John Tepe



Charles Carl  
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PHOTO CREDIT: OLD SWEDES  
HISTORIC SITE



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**JOURNAL**

## *The Swedish Colonial Society Journal*

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Copies of all past issues are available without cost by visiting [www.ColonialSwedes.net](http://www.ColonialSwedes.net) - click "News".

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**Contributors to this issue:** Joe Mathews, Kim-Eric Williams, John Tepe, Diane Tarbox, Lawrence Backlund. (PHOTOS AS CREDITED)

**On the Cover:** PHOTO CREDIT: ISTOCK.COM/ PHANUWATNANDEE

# The Tobacco Debacle



**W**hen Governor Johann Printz was sent to America, he was given twenty-eight instructions. The first with regard to commerce was to “zealously devote himself to the cultivation of the land, especially for tobacco growing, so the he could send a good quantity with every homebound ship.” This turned out to be about as realistic as later instructions to export wine, grain, beer, and schnapps, as well as more tobacco. At the time, Sweden’s shipping was underdeveloped and there would be very few homebound ships.

The Swedes had assumed that they could duplicate the success of adjacent English colonies. Tobacco exports from the Chesapeake region had reached a million pounds a year and productivity advances had allowed planters to compensate for a steady decline in price.

To this end, the New Sweden Company received in 1641 its first monopoly on the import of tobacco into Sweden. It was required to guarantee the Crown the income from the tax on tobacco. To hinder smuggling, in 1643 the Crown gave the Company a monopoly of the trade within the country either through an exclusive distributor or through apothecaries in the case of powdered tobacco or snuff.

This should have been a good source of revenue, but probably most of the profits remained with the people

who collected taxes for the Company. The investors, who received shares in the Company in payment for debts owed them from the tobacco trade to the Russian border, once again did not profit.

Swedish officials were unaware that many factors entered into cultivating marketable American tobacco. Weather conditions, insect pests, fungi, transplanting the young plants to well-fertilized fields, and curing the leaves were all processes with which with Swedish and Finnish farmers were unfamiliar.

Tobacco was regarded with reverence by just about all Native peoples. A Huron Indian legend goes like this: In ancient times, when the land was barren and the people were starving, the Great Spirit sent forth a woman to save humanity. As she traveled over the world, everywhere her right hand touched the soil, there grew potatoes; everywhere her left hand touched the soil, there grew corn. And the the world was rich and fertile, she sat down and rested. When she arose, there grew tobacco.

An all-purpose plant, it was dried and cured, then ground and smoked in clay or stone pipes. Occasionally, tobacco was mixed with other ingredients, such as

sumac. It could be used as a curative like an herb, shared socially during a casual get-together, or become the focal point in a more formal ceremony. Recreational smoking was enjoyed in silence, the imbiber contemplating the swirling smoke, thinking deep thoughts and bonding with the spirits.



Swedish-American spokesperson, Ann-Margret pictured here with Nagle Bridwell attends the SCS 350th Anniversary Celebration in 1988.

PHOTO CREDIT: FRED PFAFF



The Lenape and other Indians remained peaceful as long as there was a potential for trade with the Swedes. Fortunately, supplying the Swedes with tobacco continued after the Indians' source of furs for trade had been exhausted, although Lenape production never reached the size of tobacco production in Virginia.

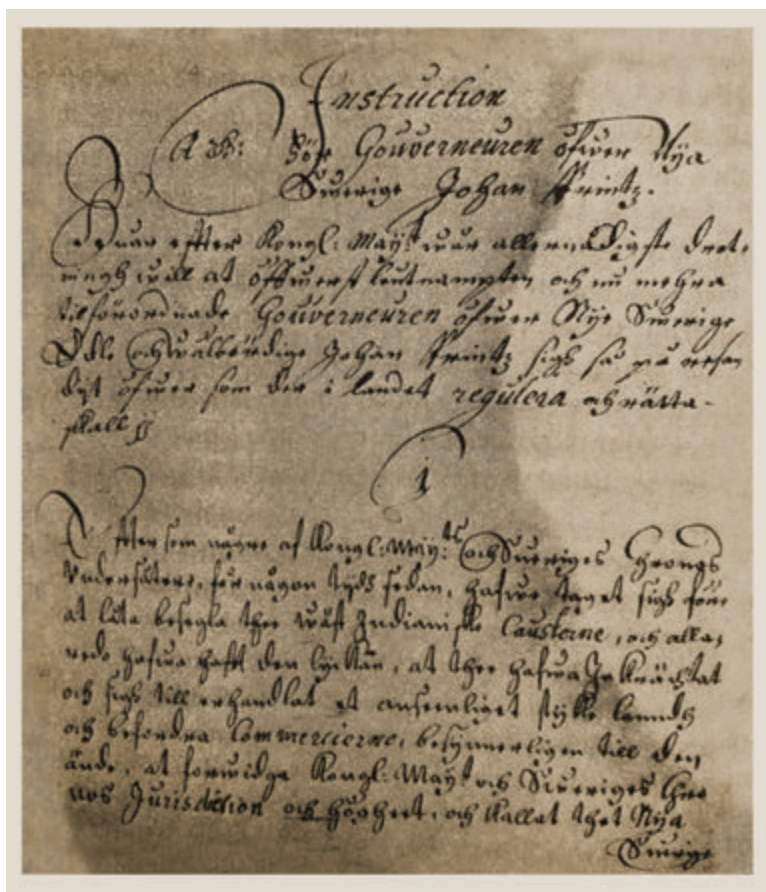
When tobacco was introduced to Europe, it immediately became immensely popular. Sir Walter Raleigh himself developed quite a fondness for the stuff and the story is told that while smoking one of his first bowls, he was doused with a bucket of water by a servant who assumed his master was on fire.

Tobacco is still big business in Sweden. Think of Swedish Match and Svenska Tobaks. At our 350th Anniversary Celebration in 1988, Ann-Margret attended as their Swedish American spokesperson. At lunch she charmed a table full of tobacco executives. Governor Printz tried hard but without success. From the Printzhoff at his land grant of Tinicum Island, Printz supervised his tobacco plantation. Because corn was available from the Indians, tobacco was grown on all the Company land; to wit, at Upland (now Chester), Fort Christina (now Wilmington) and Korsholm on the south side of the Schuylkill.

However, the climate was not the same as that of Virginia, Maryland, or the Caribbean. There were about 90 men in the colony at the time, 31 of whom were occupied in planting tobacco. At Upland, twelve men including Johan Anderson Stalkofta were engaged under the direction of an expert planter, possibly an Englishman who had worked in the tobacco fields of Virginia. Fort Christina had eleven working the tobacco and seven planters were engaged at Korsholm.

However, Printz faced a number of headwinds.

There was the shortage of labor. While Tobacco remained



First page of Johan Printz' Instructions.

PHOTO CREDIT: PUBLISHED IN "NEW SWEDEN: THE DREAM OF AN EMPIRE" BY ALGOT MATTSSON (1987).

one of the major crops farther south in Virginia, where the English used slaves, the Swedes bought no slaves and indentured servants moved on once their terms of service had been completed. This severely limited the number of workers available.

Moreover, the Finnish slash and burn farming methods were not appropriate for tobacco. Aware of their inexperience in growing tobacco, in 1639 Black Anthony was hired as

governor's coxswain and for his experience with tobacco in the Caribbean. His assistance provided some benefit.

Another demotivation may have been that no tobacco plantations were owned by the free settlers themselves. Either the New Sweden Company or Governor Printz owned them, and they were cultivated by tenants, or indentured servants such as Per Cock.

Despite these efforts on Prinz' part, repeated cultivation resulted in soil depletion, which caused the abandonment of tobacco in lower Delaware during the latter half of the colonial period. The Indians avoided the problem of soil depletion by moving from time to time.

In order to address these problems and carry on the tobacco trade, in 1638, the Swedes tried unsuccessfully to purchase

tobacco from the English at Jamestown, whose Governor, William Berkeley, considered the Swedes to be interlopers on English territory. They were more successful in the Caribbean. Tobacco was obtained at St. Kitts in the West Indies on the return journey to Sweden.

In March 1647, Printz shipped 101 casks of tobacco to Sweden on the "Haj." Only 29% of the total quantity was grown in New Sweden, 71% having been purchased from Dutch and English merchants. When the shipment arrived in Sweden, it was valued at 4,000 Riksdaler, a substantial sum, but not sufficient to pay for the voyage.

Later, in 1654, when the arrival of Governor Johann Rising on the "Orn" reopened direct contact with Sweden, the colonists were forced to buy a cargo of tobacco hurriedly from English merchant Isaac Allerton at a high price. The tobacco filled only 47 barrels, not nearly enough to cover the cost of the ship's passage back home.

The successful growing of tobacco in the colony would have eliminated the need for the Company to buy its tobacco from English and Dutch merchants in nearby colonies. The profits would have gone to the Company, consistent with the mercantilist principle of obtaining the goods one needed from a primary source. But there was no real trade with Sweden because the merchandise needed for trade with the Indians--cloth, axes, adzes, knives, copper kettles and so forth--were not produced in sufficient quantities in Sweden, so they had to be purchased in Holland.

Because Printz' efforts were unsuccessful, Queen Christina revoked the New Sweden Company's monopoly in 1649. The text of her decree has been translated and is found below. The lure of tobacco cultivation and trade, however, was resurrected. The monopoly on tobacco importation was restored in 1655, as was the monopoly on the internal tobacco trade in 1658, in the false hope that New Sweden could be regained from the Dutch. In 1660, the Company itself was dissolved and the monopoly granted to others whose motivation was purely commercial rather than imperial in nature.

## The Rightful Owners

The Lenapes in the Delaware Valley did not believe that anyone could actually own land. The Creator had made the land and the air for everyone to use. Thus, when they signed the land deeds written by Europeans, they considered them as permission to share the land, almost as in a condominium arrangement. It also meant that they expected regular payments as signs of friendship. They assumed that the newcomers would only erect trading posts and did not expect large numbers of people to dominate the landscape.



Lapowinsa, Chief of the Lenape painted by Gustavus Hesselius for the Penn Family prior to the treaty negotiations of 1735.



### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**John B. Tepe, Jr., Esq.** served as Governor of the The Swedish Colonial Society. He is also a member of The Mayflower Society, the Society of Colonial Wars and the Delaware Historical Society. John is a retired attorney, and is one of our Forefather Members as an 11th generation descendent of Peter Larsson Cock.

# Queen Christina's Decree about Tobacco in New Sweden 1649

*QUEEN CHRISTINA, by the Grace of God the chosen Queen and Hereditary Princess of the Swedes, the Goths, and the Wends, Great Princess of Finland, Duchess of Estonia and Karelia, Mistress of Ingermanland, make known that at a certain time some years ago We granted the Southland Company certain privileges related to the tobacco trade, and through issued proclamations announced that all our subjects and traders, here in Our Kingdom would be strictly forbidden to import tobacco for sale or otherwise they would face punishment. We now for the sake of special reasons and causes find it desirable to revoke Our given privileges and render powerless and annul the issued proclamation. We now therefore in the power of this general declaration forbid all further monopolies in tobacco, and all foreigners, as well as our own subjects in the countryside and as well as the cities who have the desire to trade and seek their livelihood in tobacco, may be permitted to do so without hindrances, as soon as the coming winter is passed and sailing expeditions commence.*

*And all those, either of Our own subjects within the Kingdom or foreign persons shall pay a custom duty of a*

*half Daler in reliable tender to Us and the Crown for every skålpund of tobacco that is imported by sea or taken by land over our borders. But subjects who secretly import some tobacco either for sale or for their own use in order to deny us our duty shall have that same tobacco forfeited and confiscated and a threefold [penalty] shall be leveled by our Customs personnel for that which was taken from Us and the Crown, since we have chosen most graciously to abolish the former Southland Company.*

*This is to be observed by Our Governor in Stockholm, the National Commercial Authority, and the provincial Governors, together with all proper persons concerned, especially our maritime Customs authorities at Sea Customs and Inspectors at Border crossings, In affirmation of this, We have with our own hand signed BeaBecand witnessed Our present declaration as described above. Dated in Stockholm, the 25 October, 1649.*

## CHRISTINA

Transl. Kim-Eric Williams & Brian B. Magnusson

<sup>1</sup> About \$16.50 in US currency today

<sup>2</sup> 0.425 kg

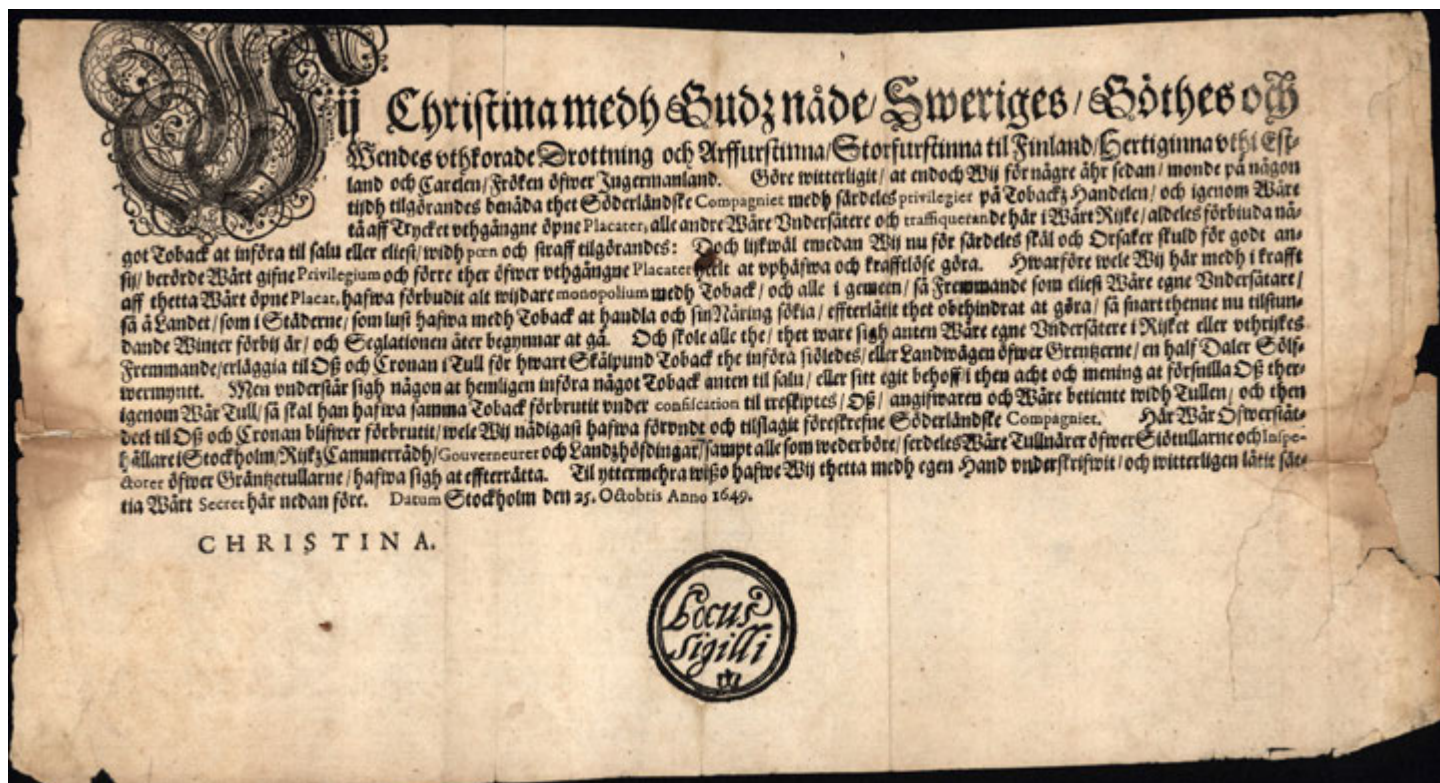


PHOTO CREDIT: THE UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE, MORRIS LIBRARY

# Charles Carl Christopher Springer

## A Long Road to New Sweden

**W**ho was Charles Carl Christopher Springer? Few now know his name other than a plaque stating his birth in Sweden, his death in Delaware, and that he was a loyal member of the Old Swedes Church and was buried by the East wall of the South portico. He is said to have come to America in 1678. A man's life summed up in but a few words. But there is so much more to this man's story.

I discovered that Charles Springer was my seventh great grandfather.

My DNA shows me to be only 11% Swedish. I rather chalked this bit of Scandinavian ancestry up to those marauding Vikings. Little did I know that I would discover where some of this Swedish ancestry must have come from: Charles Springer. Yes, that man.

Learning the historical perspective of the times in which our ancestor lived plays such an important part in their life story. Charles was no exception. The Springer family were originally German. They were very much involved in the Thirty Years War in Germany, on the Protestant side. The Thirty Years' War (1618-1648) was the last major European conflict informed by religious divisions and one of the most devastating in European history, resulting in a death toll of approximately 8 million. Beginning as a local conflict in Bohemia, it eventually involved all of Europe, including Sweden. For its support in the war, in the Peace of Westphalia, Sweden was awarded parts of the north coast of

Germany, which included Wismar, where Charles' father, Christopher Springer, resided. His father thus became a Swedish subject. He moved in 1649 to Berlin and then to Stockholm.

Christopher Springer had studied law and spent about forty years in the Swedish government. At the time of his death, he was listed as Archive Inspector at the Royal Exchequer; his estate was vast.

Charles' mother was Lady Beata Salina, daughter of the Court Physician. She was the third wife of Christopher, and considerably younger than he. Christopher had had a son by a first wife, and a daughter by a second wife. He and Beata had five children, including Charles. When Christopher died, Hedwig, Dowager Queen of Sweden, named Lady Beata as Royal Housekeeper.

Charles was born in Stockholm and lived a very privileged life. At one time he studied in Riga, part of Latvia/Russia, with his half-sister. As he reached about 17, he was sent to England to further his education and study mathematics. He probably was proficient in not only Swedish, but Russian and then English.

As Charles completed his education in England and was preparing to return to Sweden in 1678, the unthinkable happened--he was kidnapped. At the time, there was a lucrative, albeit illegal, business in providing indentured servants to North America and other areas in the western hemisphere. Kidnapping people off the streets was not unheard of. This happened to Charles, who wrote about his experience in a letter to his mother, dated June 1, 1693, that was discovered in the Swedish National Archives. It is not known if the letter was received by his mother before her death. Here is what he wrote:



Springer marker located in the Old Swedes Church, Wilmington, Delaware.

PHOTO CREDIT: OLD SWEDES HISTORIC SITE



## *My highly esteemed, dear Mother:*

*I cannot not permit this opportunity which, thank God, I now have, to go by without making known to you distinctly, dear Mother, my present condition and life.*

*First of all, I find it wholly deplorable to be so far away from my dear mother, brothers, family, and relatives, and in a land so distant from you, and not able to receive any communication from you, for all that I have written to you many times, without getting any answer except for one letter in England.*

*Further, I shall also let you know about my coming here to this land. When I was in London, and was of a mind to journey home to Sweden, my native country, again, having gone to school there [London], learned there English speech and the writing and reading, and [having become] well versed in arithmetic, and, as I say, was about to journey home, I was kidnapped and, against my will, taken aboard an English ship. And against my will I was carried to America, in the West Indies, to Virginia. And when I got there I was sold off like a farm animal that is driven to market. Thus I was sold, to labor, and held in very slavery for five years together.*

*My work was unspeakable. In the summer it was Extra Ordinary hot during the day, and my work was mostly in the winter, clearing land and cutting down forest and making it ready for planting Tobacco and the Indian grain [corn] in the summer. I had a very hard master. But now - to God be praise, honor, and glory! - I have overcome it all.*

*When I had faithfully served out my time I heard, accidentally, that there were Swedes at Delaware River, in Pensellvenia, which formerly under the Swedish rule, was called Nya Swerige [New Sweden], and so, as I now will tell you, I made that difficult journey of about four hundred miles. And when I got there I beheld the Old Swedes, and they received me very kindly.*

*When I had been here about a year and a half, then it pleased God to send and vouchsafe me a most virtuous wife, by name Maria Hendrichsdotter, whom I married on 27 December 1685 and with whom it has pleased God to grant me three children, all three of them daughters, and she is even now with the fourth child. May God Almighty give her a good delivery!*

*As for my activities, I am a reader here in one Swedish congregation, and serve it, because now we have no pastors in this land, for they are all dead. I serve the congregation in the church with the reading and expounding of God's Word, for I have a Swedish postilla [book of family sermons], and the singing of hymns. It is now upon the fourth year that I have served the congregation in this way.*

*Moreover, I have two plantations that I have bought, and on one of them I live, and plough and plant sowing all kinds of seed during the year. I also have a livestock for the needs of my household, and so live, thank God, that I and mine suffer no want.*

*My highly esteemed Mother, dear, let also hear of you and my dear*

*brothers, whether they are living, and how they fare. God has known my sadness at not being able to hear anything from you. That would make me truly glad of heart. My fondest longing has been that I might be permitted, before I die, to hear of your well-being.*

*We here in this land now have a godly enterprise, we who are Swedes. We have received a letter in our country here concerning our king in Sweden, that he will, upon our writing and representation, send us pastors and Swedish books, of which we have a great lack. They have no one among them to write for them but me, I have done it diligently.*

*I ask also, my beloved, dear Mother, that it may please you send me a Bible, here, and two manuals and hymnals, for I have no one of my own. And if you please, you could send them here to me thus, that is, first, send by some dear person to Gothenburg, to His Majesty's faithful servant and postmaster, John Thelin, by name, who will surely send them to me by messenger at the first opportunity. Dear Mother, I am wholly at a loss for books.*

*I send greetings to my dear brothers, and my dear brother Lorentz Springer [half-brother] and his wife and children. Greet all good friends, relatives, and family, and all who know me and my name. My dear wife and children send all of you their greetings.*

*I remain always your ever most obedient son, unto death.*

*/s/ Karell Christoffeson Springer*

Charles Springer was indeed a valuable asset to the settlers in what was called the Swedish Nation after the Dutch and English takeovers of the New Sweden colony, not only for his contributions to the church but for his ability to speak and write both Swedish and English. All legal documents had to be written in English by the late 17th century. Most of the Swedes knew only a smattering of English and were not able to write it. Charles was able to translate documents from English to Swedish so his countrymen would not be taken advantage of in legal transactions.

Thus, the story of one man's journey to New Sweden, where he married, fathered daughters who lived, and died in 1738.

I descend from two of Charles' daughters, Anna Springer Hall and Maria Springer Cleaney, whose children married. I was researching my Hall line when I discovered Charles Springer. Now I share his story, the story of one man in the Delaware Valley prior to the creation of Pennsylvania in 1681.

As an aside, Charles' mother-in-law, Gertrude Hendrickson, was accused of being a witch.

But that is another story.



Eric Björk (Left) is the pastor who built Holy Trinity Church at Wilmington in answer to the letter sent by Carl Springer. His portrait was discovered at the Nordiska Museum in Stockholm by SCS member Hans Ling and after restoration by SCS came to America in 2004 and is now in the Historical Society of Delaware.

PHOTO CREDIT: RON HENDRICKSON

## King Carl XVI Gustaf Heart Procedure

The King of Sweden, on the advice of the Royal Physician, underwent a laparoscopic heart procedure on February 20. It is expected that he would be hospitalized for up to three days, with a further two weeks of official rest before resuming his schedule.

The planned procedure was successful and the king is in good health and spirits, according to reports from

Sweden. He is thankful for all the messages of encouragement received from all over the world. He especially has mentioned the high quality of medical care he received in Sweden.

King Carl is the High Patron of the Swedish Colonial Society, which has joined others in wishing His Majesty a healthy recovery and return to his official duties. One of those duties will be to celebrate the 50th anniversary of his reign on September 11, 2023. At that time, he will be Sweden's longest serving monarch.

SOURCE: SWEDISH ROYAL FAMILY PRESS RELEASE



PHOTO CREDIT: THRON ULLBERG/THE ROYAL COURT OF SWEDEN

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Diane Tarbox** lives in Taylorsville UT and writes about her Forefather Charles Springer, who was born in Stockholm, came to the New World involuntarily, and built a new life in Pennsylvania.

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# Welcome to Our New Publishing Team

This issue of the Journal is being published by a new team of talented professionals.

Our new Editor is Dr. Lawrence Backlund, PhD. Our new Journal Editor, Dr. Lawrence Backlund, PhD., although not a descendant of a New Sweden colonist, is firmly committed to the Society. He was born in New York, the son of Swedish-Finn parents, educated in Connecticut, and earned degrees at Ithaca College and the University of Pennsylvania. After

more than forty years as Professor of History and Political Science at Montgomery County Community College (Blue Bell, PA), he has retired but continues as part time adjunct at Delaware Valley University (Doylestown, PA). He joined the Society after attending one of the annual conferences, when he sat with several Swedish experts and honed his linguistic skills.

Our new Designer is Laura L. Luther of Downingtown, PA, the proprietor of “Creative Presence Design Works”. She has had considerable experience working with non-profit

groups and commercial firms, ranging from stewardship materials for a local church to the Diabetes Wellness Network, the Brandywine Valley SPCA and the Café Advocate. Ron and Nancy Hendrickson were generous in sharing the original color templates developed by Catalano so that it should be a seamless transition.

Our printer will be Apple Press, a firm with 30 years of experience in printing and mailing in Exton, PA. We had excellent service from Garrison in NJ but this location is closer for Immediate contact in case of need.

## Editor’s Note

This issue of the Journal is my first as editor and part of a new publishing team, which is doing its best to continue the excellent work of our predecessors. The themes of this issue are “people and products.” The “people” refers to the New Sweden colonists and their successors we call Forefathers. The “products” refers the records of efforts to engage in trade and production in the 17th century colony. In this issue, John Tepe examines efforts made to cultivate tobacco, a crop that hopefully would yield profits for the New Sweden Company.

Diane Tarbox discovers her descent from a Swedish Forefather. Yours truly reviews a book by Kim-Eric Williams. Other familiar features, of course, will continue, as well as our aim of keeping members and readers informed of the activities of everyone interested in the New Sweden colony in the Delaware River Valley.

—Lawrence Backlund, PhD



Dr. Lawrence Backlund, new Journal editor (left) and Ron Hendrickson, former SCS Journal Designer (right).

PHOTO CREDIT: RUTH RIZZI

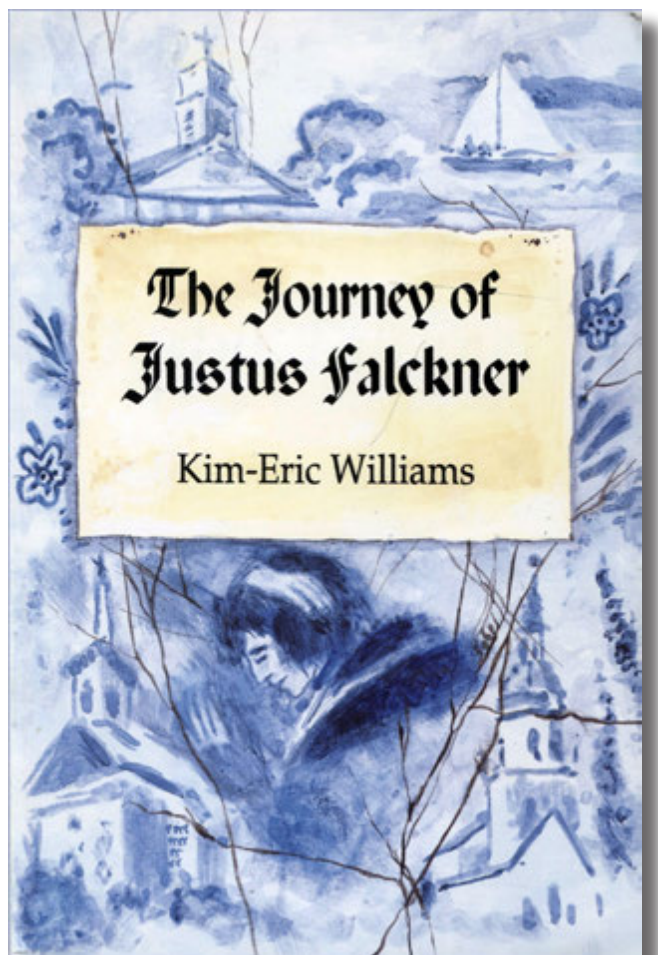


Rambo Apple tree at the Philadelphia campus of the United Lutheran Seminary. A descendent of trees imported to PA by Peter Gunnarson Rambo who arrived in New Sweden in 1640. Tree planted by SCS.

PHOTO CREDIT: KIM-ERIC WILLIAMS

## Book Review:

# Revisiting Falckner's Travels



Williams, Kim-Eric. *The Journey of Justus Falckner (1672-1723)*. Delhi, New York: American Lutheran Publicity Bureau, 2003. ISBN: 18929217.

This slim well-researched volume travels with the Saxon-born Justus Falckner, third son of a Lutheran pastor, who served as a missionary and had a noteworthy connection with the Swedish clergy serving the descendants of the New Sweden colonists in the Delaware River valley.

In keeping with custom of the time Falckner studied theology at the Pietist-based Halle University, transferred to Leipzig, and made his way with his brother Daniel in 1700 to a community of Pietist hermits housed along the Wissahickon Creek near Philadelphia, the first of several journeys he would undertake in his lifetime. The hermit's life was not for him. His faith journeys had just begun. He soon left the community and worked with his brother in Germantown.

Almost immediately Falckner noted the “wretched condition” of his fellow Germans’ religious life and sought advice from Andreas Rudman, then Pastor at the Swedish Gloria Dei Church at Wicaco, now in Philadelphia. Rudman graciously offered to provide free services and sermons in German. This was not to be. Instead, Rudman played another and critical role in Falckner’s life. He arranged for Falckner’s Ordination.

Williams discusses this in a chapter, arguing that when the King of Sweden had appointed him “Superintendent in America,” head of the Church of Sweden mission dispatched in 1697, the Swedish pastor was authorized to ordain and that such ordinations would be recognized by the other Protestant denominations, including the Dutch and Germans in New York, a matter of concern for Falckner.

Shortly after this meeting, Rudman, despite ill-health, had answered a call to serve as pastor in a Dutch congregation in New York. He returned to Philadelphia for Falckner’s November 24, 1703 ordination ceremony, which in all likelihood he had created.

Because fires had destroyed many documents in the Skara Bishopric in Sweden, there is no contemporary account of the ceremony. Williams, however, recreates one based on the operative Swedish service book and its strictly orthodox Lutheran theology. He notes, as well, that even though November 24 was a Wednesday, members of the Church Council and others were present as witnesses. These witnesses included important descendants of the New Sweden colony and the subsequent Swedish Nation after the English takeover of the region: Caspar Fisk, Michael and Hans Laican, Anders Långåker, John Scute, John Stille, Matts Keen, and John Rambo. They heard Falckner swear to uphold Lutheran theology and live a model godly life of service and humility. Falckner was presented with an Ordination Certificate, dated November 25, 1703.

Williams asserts this ceremony was “one of the most significant days in the history of Christianity in America.”

Falckner’s was the first Lutheran ordination in the New World. Rudman wrote the Certificate’s text and it was signed by Rudman and two other Swedish clergymen, Erik Björk and Andreas Sandel. Perhaps even more significant, given the paucity of historic documentation, was the survival of the Certificate, which was found in 1925 at St James Lutheran Church in New York by “cleaning women in a rubbish heap,” according to a New York Times story on May 5. The then pastor, William F. Sunday, had it deposited in the vault of the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Gettysburg, PA. It remains there but is reproduced in the book.

Thus, this first ordination was Rudman’s handiwork.

It marked the beginning of Falckner’s long missionary career, establishing churches, preaching sermons, and constantly travelling in the Hudson River Valley and northern New Jersey. On this exhausting journey, he conducted the first Lutheran baptism of a free Black child in North America, baptized an enslaved Native American, wrote a catechism “edifying for good and simple hearts,” looked to the spiritual well-being of newly-arrived migrants from the Palatine, and built a family of his own. Williams thinks it interesting that Falckner married in 1717; his bride, Gerritje Hardick, had been baptized in Albany in the Dutch Reformed Church. Soon children were born—Anna Catherina, Sara Justa, and Benedictus.

They would not enjoy a long happy life together. As Williams puts it, “the rigors and privations made...life a constant challenge” for Falckner, who travelled over “non-existent roads on horseback” to 14 congregations.

He died in September 1723, in all likelihood a day after he signed a will.

Thus came to an end the life of the first-ordained, hymn composing, champion of biblically-based Lutheran theology, journey-exhausted missionary clergyman—a final journey.

It is obvious that Williams has taken great and discerning care in researching Falckner, including archival studies in Sweden. And thus this is a more accurate and readable account than the books by Julius Frederick Sachse (1903) and Delbar Wallace Clark (1946). This alone makes this book essential to understanding the state of Lutheranism prior to Henry Melchior Mühlenberg’s 1742 arrival, as well as the critical role played by the Swedish clergy in Philadelphia and the descendants of the New Sweden colony, where the first clergy had arrived in 1640.



#### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Larry Backlund, PhD** was born in a Swedish-Finn family and enjoys a career as an academic historian. Larry now lives in Philadelphia and is an excited new SCS Journal editor.

PHOTO CREDIT: RUTH RIZZI

The Falckner book can be purchased for \$15.00 at:  
Lutheran Archives Center of Philadelphia  
7301 Germantown Avenue  
Philadelphia PA 191119  
or Lacphila.org

## Ted Hallman in the National Museum of Sweden’s exhibition “Beauty and the Unexpected”

We are happy to announce that SCS Life Member and fiber artist Ted Hallman will be included in the American Craft exhibition “Beauty and the Unexpected” at the National Museum of Sweden. The exhibition includes his piece “Sunrise Twills”.

The exhibition is open from March 30, 2023, through January 21, 2024, in Stockholm, Sweden. Ted Hallman’s work was exhibited at the American Swedish Historical Museum in 2018.



PHOTO CREDIT: ANNA JANSSON, NATIONALMUSEUM, CC BY-SA 4.0, VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS



PHOTO CREDITS: RUTH RIZZI

## SCS Settles Into the Lazaretto

SCS settles its headquarters into its new home at the Lazaretto in Essington located just south of Philadelphia. The Lazaretto was the first stop for immigrants and merchants coming to America during the quarantining season of June to October. The passengers and cargo would be inspected by Lazaretto doctors and either quarantined or given a “Clean Bill of Health” and allowed to go to the immigration station in Philadelphia to start their new life in America.

Once the Lazaretto ceased to function as a quarantine station, the building languished. Only recently did it receive attention and underwent restoration, thanks to active citizen participation backed by Tinicum Township.

Today it serves as township offices and is home to SCS, including our Archives, Study Center and Art Exhibit.

### NEW MEMBERS WELCOME!

**THE SWEDISH COLONIAL SOCIETY** welcomes new members. No Swedish relative or ancestry is required – only an interest in colonial history.

**Contact our Registrar:**

Theresa Brasko, *The Swedish Colonial Society*, 97 Wanamaker Avenue, Essington PA 19029-1434 or visit us online at: [www.ColonialSwedes.net](http://www.ColonialSwedes.net).

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

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

**Our Purposes are:**

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

**Beverly B. Walker - Curator**

## NEW FOREFATHER MEMBERS

The following have been authenticated by SCS Curator Beverly Walker and are welcomed as "Forefather Members:"

**Edwing Olen (Ted) Blew**, of Doylestown, PA, has proven descent from his Forefather ancestor, Olaf Stille, through his daughter Ella Stille Jochimsson and her husband, Peter Jochimsson. This line continues through son Peter Peterson Jochimsson and his wife Judith Nillson Yocum.

**Daniel Clifford Friend**, of Los Osos, CA, has proven descent from his Forefather ancestor Nils Larsson Frande/Friend and his wife Anna Andersdotter through their son Lars Nilsson Friend and his wife Sarah Jaquet . This line continues through a grandson Lawrence Friend and his wife Sarah (Sally) Cox/Kock(s) Friend.

**Janene Enochs Michel Miller**, of Fort Branch, IN, has proven her descent from her Forefather Garret Enochson and his wife Gertrude Mansson Enochson through their son Enoch Enochson and his wife Susanne Frande/Friend Enochson. This line continues through grandson John Enochson and his wife Margaret Vanneman Enochson.

Active members of the Swedish Colonial Society may apply for recognition as "Forefather Members" if they can prove descent from Swedish colonists arriving in the United States prior to the Treaty of Paris, marking the close of the Revolutionary War, in 1783. Application forms may be obtained from the SCS Website ([www.ColonialSwedes.net](http://www.ColonialSwedes.net)).

**Theresa Brasko - Registrar**

## NEW MEMBERSHIP

### NEW INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

Steven Coker  
Columbia, SC 29205

Rodney R. Hammons  
Rushville, IN 46173

Nicholas Keen  
Bellefonte, PA 16823

Deanna Lahre  
Blue Earth, MN 56013

Scott Lytle  
New York, NY 10128

Brian Magnusson  
59931 Ödeshög, Sweden

James Olexa  
Douglassville, PA 19518

Raina Olexa  
Marietta, NY 13110

Arthur O'Neill  
Bluffton SC 29910

William Morgan  
Bennington, VT 05201

Carla Parker  
Paulsboro, NJ 08066

Barbara L. Wilkinson  
Loveland, CO 80538



## SWEDISH COLONIAL SOCIETY PATRONS, OFFICERS, COUNCILLORS & HONORARY GOVERNORS

*As of March 16, 2023*

**SCS Patrons**

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His Majesty Carl XVI Gustaf  
King of Sweden

**Deputy High Patron**

Her Royal Highness  
Crown Princess Victoria

**Patron**

Her Excellency Karin Olofsdotter  
Ambassador of Sweden

**Associate Patron**

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THE SWEDISH COLONIAL SOCIETY  
**JOURNAL**

The Swedish Colonial Society  
97 Wanamake Avenue  
Essington PA 19029-1424

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

## SAVE THESE DATES



Featured Speaker:

**Dr. Mark L.  
Thompson**

University of Groningen

*November 4, 2023*

**22nd New Sweden Conference**  
*The Museum of the American Revolution*  
*Philadelphia, PA*

**Theme:** “Contested Spaces: Colonial and Indigenous  
Concepts of Landscape Along the Delaware River”

**For Details:** Consult American Swedish Historical Museum  
Website [<https://www.americanswedish.org>] for registration



*December 16, 2023*

**Annual SCS Christmas Dinner**  
*Corinthian Yacht Club*  
*Essington, PA*

**Cost:** \$60 per person

**For Details:** Linda Alexy at 215 677 2046 or  
[kennethbykotaverizon.net](mailto:kennethbykotaverizon.net)