



THE SWEDISH COLONIAL SOCIETY

# JOURNAL



## HISTORY GALLERY & ARCHIVE GRAND OPENING

VOLUME 8, NUMBER 2 | FALL 2024

PRESERVING THE LEGACY OF THE NEW SWEDEN COLONY IN AMERICA



## THE SWEDISH COLONIAL SOCIETY

THE LAZARETTO, 97 WANAMAKER AVE., ESSINGTON, PA 19029-1424

### A Letter from Our Governor

We had a well-attended and enjoyable Forefathers Luncheon on April 13, 2024. It was held at the Riverwinds Restaurant in West Deptford, New Jersey. The name is apt: it was extremely windy, situated as it is, overlooking the mighty Delaware River. Once you got inside, however, all was well. In fact it was a great venue with great views. The interior was well-appointed and the food and service were very good. The musical duo Last Chance created a festive mood.

Our speaker was geology professor Mark Demitroff of Stockton University. In his talk he described the landforms colonial Swedes encountered in southern New Jersey and how they put them to use to produce timber, cattle, iron, charcoal, tar, and naval stores. He connected with his audience also, invoking such prominent family names as Steelman and Mullica and place names such as Hance Bridge and Batsto.

Then there was the wonderful visit on May 4 by his Excellency, Ambassador Urban Ahlin and his charming wife, Jenni Ahlin. They came to join us in celebrating the Grand Opening of our two rooms in the historic 1799 Lazaretto: the New Sweden History Gallery and Study Center. The Ambassador engaged in friendly conversation with us from the start and seemed delighted with his surroundings. We had a responsive audience and his talk was fascinating as he placed contemporary Sweden in historical context with respect to their new status as NATO allies.

After the talks, we gave the Ambassador some special gifts: a Tincicum Township shirt from Commissioner Pat Barr, and from us a new-style Philadelphia Phillies cap with Swedish colors (new this year), and a Philadelphia flag also with Swedish colors. These last two items were meant to bring home the fact that the Swedes were the first Philadelphians!

Then came the ribbon-cutting and after that the fika. A little while later, the Ahlins visited the Farmstead where former Governor John Tepe showed them around. It was raining so their interest in the Farmstead was much appreciated. Truly, their presence and participation made our Grand Opening something special and it was a pleasure making their acquaintance.

As we plan for our next big event, our annual Julmiddag, we have continued to hold Open Houses at the Farmstead and the History Gallery in the Lazaretto. We are open at both locations on a regular basis and we continue to interact with the public. The community seems to appreciate our efforts in this regard. We want you to know we are doing our bit to keep the history and culture of New Sweden alive in Tincicum.

Finally, perhaps the latest piece of news is the initiative to raise funds to move the Finnish Monument from its present location in Chester PA to Governor Printz Park. I refer you to the article on page 17 of this issue. It's an exciting proposition not just for Tincicum Township but of course also for the Society. We will hope to continue to meet our challenges head on.

Joseph P. Mathews

governor@colonialswedes.net





# HIGHLIGHTS

## ***The Swedish Colonial Society Journal***

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**On the Cover:** Swedish Ambassador to the United States, Urban Ahlin and SCS Governor Joe Mathews executing the ribbon cutting at Grand Opening of the SCS History & Art Gallery and Archive in Tinicum.

PHOTO CREDIT: LAURA LUTHER



## History Gallery & Archive Opening

by Lawrence Backlund



## SCS Governor Visits Sweden *A Travelogue*

by Joseph Mathews



## New Sweden Heritage Monument

*Lands in NJ*

by Joseph Mathews

# History Gallery & Archive Opening

By Lawrence Backlund and Kim-Eric Williams

**T**he Grand Opening of the Colonial Swedish Society’s Historical Gallery and the New Sweden Study Center and Archives took place on May 4, 2024, at the Lazaretto in Tinicum Township, Pennsylvania. Neither the weather—overcast with chilly showers, temperature measured at 55 degrees Fahrenheit [12.7 degrees Celsius]—nor the aircraft landing and taking off a nearby Philadelphia International Airport, could dampen the warmth and friendly atmosphere within.

The event began with carefully prepared remarks by Governor Joe Mathews, who noted the devoted labors of SCS members in maintaining recognition of New Sweden. He alluded to Sweden’s recent accession to NATO and, pointing to members of the Pennsylvania National Guard who were present, mentioned he had written a letter in support of close cooperation of the Guard and its Swedish counterpart. He knew the Pentagon had received several such offers and would make the ultimate decision. But he was hopeful.



PHOTO CREDIT: KIM-ERIC WILLIAMS

Mathews introduced Kim-Eric Williams, SCS Historian, who dispelled several historical errors regarding New Sweden and the descendants of the short-lived Swedish 17<sup>th</sup> century colony in a humorous fashion. He focused on the accurate archival work of Amandus Johnson. Williams then discussed “how we got here,” referring to the creation of the SCS and how the land that became Governor Printz Park was privately purchased, turned over to the Society, and ultimately to Tinicum Township. In conclusion, he outlined how the Swedish Farmstead project had been completed. Tours of the Farmstead would follow the day’s events, with former Governor John Tepe serving as guide.

Swedish Ambassador Urban Ahlin leaped from his chair and described the day as a “great event” that he and his wife Jenne were “excited” to participate in. They were especially interested in the artifacts in the Society’s collection. Speaking informally, he noted that he had represented the electoral district in Sweden that bordered the Printz estate and burial place during his service in the Swedish *Riksdag*. Thus, he felt special connection with the Society and its work.

Ahlin, who had served as Speaker of the *Riksdag* and a Social Democratic foreign affairs spokesman, concluded his remarks by underscoring the continued “deep and good relations” between Sweden and the United States.

Following Ambassador Ahlin’s remarks, Mathews presented him with several gifts—a blue Phillies baseball hat and the blue-and-gold Philadelphia city flag—were especially noteworthy. One of the township commissioners then stepped forward and handed Ambassador Ahlin a black “Governor Printz” t-shirt!

The assembly moved upstairs where two ribbon-cutting ceremonies took place, opening the artifact collection and the Archives. The Reverend Maria Erling, who is fluent



PHOTO CREDIT: BRITT APPELL

in Swedish and an expert on Swedish immigration, offered prayers and Kim-Eric Williams explained some of the exhibits that included a huge portrait of Johan Printz and a painting of George Washington. This was followed by a very generous *fika* provided by Capozzoli Caterers and organized by Ruth Nelson Rizzi.

The collection at the New Sweden Historical Gallery is impressive and represents 115 years of acquisitions by the SCS. The above-mentioned portrait of Johan Printz is a copy painted on King Gustav V's direction and gifted to the SCS in 1909. It shows what this famed 400-pound courageous and proud Governor actually looked like. Now his image is even on the Tinicum Township seal and flag! There is also a painting of George Washington, done in 1794 by Adolf Ulrich Wertmueller. It is considered more realistic than the one on the dollar bill. Exhibited as well are portraits of Lapowinsa and Tiscohan, the only known images of 18<sup>th</sup> century Lenape leaders; the artist who painted them, Gustavus Hesselius, is represented by a self-portrait. Other items of interest include a 1655 map of the Delaware River by Per Lindström, ship models, a Carl Milles sculptural model, a 1695 hymnal, a Jenny Lind letter and photograph, as well as images from the Swedish colonial experience.

Because the weather had improved, the honored guests then made their way to the Farmstead, where they were greeted and guided by John Tepe, former SCS Governor.

This event had truly been a “Grand Opening,” bringing together Ambassador Ahlin, his wife Jenni, SCS members, and township officials in a way that had the desired effect of deepening and expanding friendly relations.

The Farmstead and the Gallery and Archives are open to the public every first Saturday of the month over the summer, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Farmstead will also be open during the Tinicum Farmer's Markets, held every other Wednesday, June through September. For other hours, contact the SCS.

**Opposite Left:** Inside the celebrated SCS History Gallery.  
**Opposite Right:** SCS Historian Kim-Eric Williams, Swedish Ambassador Urban Ahlin, and SCS Governor Joe Mathews.  
**Top:** SCS Governor Joe Mathews, Swedish Ambassador Urban Ahlin and his wife Jenni.  
**Middle:** Honorary Governor, John Tepe, shows Swedish Ambassador Urban Ahlin and his wife Jenni around the Farmstead at Tinicum.  
**Bottom:** Swedish Ambassador Urban Ahlin and his wife Jenni standing in the Gallery.



PHOTO CREDIT: ERIK BURRO



PHOTO CREDIT: ERIK BURRO



PHOTO CREDIT: KIM-ERIC WILLIAMS

# SCS Governor Visits Sweden: *A Travelogue*

By Joseph Mathews

*This summer I traveled again to Sweden for three weeks in August to renew old contacts and perhaps to make new ones. I offer this article as a descriptive travelogue.*

I stayed the first few days at the home of Swedish Colonial Society Councillor Leif Lundquist in Täby, a suburb of Stockholm. I took the subway into town and visited the National Museum, where I saw Councillor Ted Hallman's impressive fiber art installation (see Leif's review of the exhibit in the Spring 2024 Journal). I also went to the Ethnographic Museum to see the New Sweden exhibit. On display were a Tomahawk Pipe and a Tomahawk Pickaxe, both probably original. There was also a Ball-Headed Club, which may be original or perhaps a contemporary copy of an original at Skokloster Castle. I



**Above:** The manor house at Mårbacka, the estate of the Swedish author Selma Lagerlöf.

**Right:** Children playing in the rune stone labyrinth, lakeside in Sigtuna.

PHOTO CREDIT: JOE MATHEWS (2024)



*“Founded in the 970’s, Sigtuna is the oldest continuously occupied town in Sweden. The town center has three church ruins and twelve rune stones. The Stora Gatan, or Main Street, is the oldest preserved street in Sweden and it offers cafes and interesting stores.*”



## A SPECIAL REMEMBRANCE

**Edith R. Auten Rohrman** died May 24, 2024, at age 81, a significant member of the Society, who had a tangible impact on the history of Swedish settlement in South Jersey.

She grew up immersed in Swedish colonial history as the daughter of The Reverend Parker F. Auten, rector of Trinity Episcopal “Old Swedes” Church, beginning in 1941. She returned to Swedesboro after college and, for the rest of her life, she held Trinity dear to her heart through faith and service.

She took up her father’s work preserving Swedish history at Trinity, becoming a tour guide pointing out that the church building had been designed by the Swedish Lutheran Pastor, Nicholas Collin, in 1784. Her tours highlighted the historic grounds and cemetery, recalling the first church on the site had been erected in 1703. Local youth were her favorite audience, especially elementary school children, for whom she brought history to life, describing how Swedish settlers shaped Swedesboro, and how the church served as a hospital during the War of the American Revolution. Following those visits, Edie was always touched by the many letters of thanks she received.

Edie’s work extended beyond Trinity. In the Bicentennial Year, 1976, she helped secure the visit of King Carl XVI Gustaf to Swedesboro. As an active SCS member, she attended events in Christiana and Philadelphia, served on the Council, and formed countless friendships. Her most significant work came out of a catastrophe: Trinity suffered structural failure and had been condemned pending repair. In response, she founded the Trinity Church Historic Preservation Foundation, a 501(c)(3) corporation, to raise funds for the church’s preservation as an historic site. She secured several million dollars in grants and served as project manager for the church’s restoration. Edie’s legacy will live on for many years, in the worshipping community, in the church’s status as a national heritage site, and most importantly through her always joyful, resourceful, faith-guided spirit.



*Thanks to Rev. Gregory M. Wilson,  
Vicar, Trinity Church, Swedesboro*

knew that Skokloster also had Lenape artifacts, so I went there the next day. Skokloster's collection apparently had two ball-headed clubs, one of which is on display in a chest in the armory on the top floor. It also has two fur-covered Wolf's Jaws, one of which was probably meant to be worn around the neck as an amulet or talisman. Skokloster Castle is a massive baroque building with four towers at the corners, built during Sweden's "Great Power Era" in the 17th century by Carl Gustav Wrangel, military commander in the Thirty Years War. It was always meant to house Wrangel's collections of art, weapons, suits of armor, and so on. He may have received the New Sweden artifacts from Queen Christina.

By this time I had rented a car and taken an Airbnb room in Gamla

(Old) Uppsala, just a five minute walk from the museum there, the ancient burial mounds, and the church. I had visited Gamla Uppsala last year, but did not fully realize its significance as the residence not just of Swedish kings but of Odin himself! This time I was somewhat more prepared to try to steep myself in the lore. I took the tour in English, including a supervised climb to the top of one of the mounds. I had studied literature in college and I knew of (but hadn't closely read) the Old English poem "Beowulf" which I was vaguely aware was set in ancient Sweden. The tour guide directed me to the museum's Beowulf video and recommended Neil Price's book *Children of Ash and Elm: A History of the Vikings*, available in the museum store. He was a student of Professor Price who is English and

teaches at Uppsala University. I am presently in the midst of this excellent book which explains much about Gamla Uppsala. I stayed a few days under the spell of this ancient site, walked a lot, and discovered the Disagården, an open air museum with many log buildings from the Uppland region and even some livestock.

I then drove to Bottnaryd, hometown of Governor Printz and the New Sweden Museum, where I had been last year (see my article in the Fall 2023 Journal). I could enjoy the generous hospitality of the president of the Bottnaryd Home Village Association, Anna Gillek, and her partner Ian Styler, an historian of medieval England. I had wanted to meet with the Johan Printz Foundation members, but they were away on vacation.



**ABOVE:** The Torsby Finnskogscentrum or Finnish Settlement Centre, part of Värmlands Museum.

PHOTO CREDIT: JOE MATHEWS



From Bottnaryd I ventured out to nearby Gothenburg/Göteborg for a half-day and happily located the New Sweden monument which stands prominently in the harbor area next to a attractive public transportation hub for trams and commuter boats. It's the twin of the Carl Milles monument in



**TOP:** Folk Costume Day at Flodahembygdsförening or Floda Home Village Association.  
PHOTO CREDIT: JOE MATHEWS

Fort Christina Park in Wilmington, Delaware, except it's of bronze, not black granite. It's shorter also, I've been told, though it's still tall. I ate my sandwich while watching the skateboarders noisily navigate the shallow stairs nearby. The monument looks as if it has been graffitti'd and then smudged over. It was installed in 1958, three years after Milles' death (Wilmington's was installed in 1938). There were inscriptions and New Sweden figures on every surface: Big Belly Printz himself, Lenape figures, ships and oceans. A fascinating monument standing proudly at the harbor of this seafaring city!

I vowed somehow to learn more about this monument, but for now I had to leave beautiful Gothenburg and get to Dala-Floda by August 8th as pre-arranged. On the way there I had planned an overnight stay in Mariestad which is Ambassador Urban Ahlin's hometown. He had praised it to me, so I wanted to see it, especially as it sits on Lake Vänern, the third largest lake in Europe after Lakes Ladoga and Onega in Russia! I walked a fair amount in the old city and downtown



**ABOVE:** Hans-Björn Eriksson, docent at Sävja, one of the two estates of the Swedish biologist Linnaeus.

**LEFT:** Part of the New Sweden exhibit at the Ethnographic Museum, Stockholm.

PHOTO CREDIT: JOE MATHEWS

and saw it was a wonderful town with a stately cathedral on a hill. The lake was beautiful on this sunny day though I regret to say I didn't go swimming there (I had not packed my trunks).

Next day I arrived in Dala-Floda, where I had given a talk last year, expressing my appreciation of the Farmstead that Floda's native son Gunnar Zetterquist had built in Bridgeton, New Jersey, in 1988 (see the Fall 2023 Journal article). I was happy to meet again with Gunnar's niece, Karin Zetterqvist. She is the new hard-working president of the town's Home Village Association, succeeding Lars Rehde. Her partner, Lars Åke Augustsson, is a prolific author who writes about people like Ralph Waldo Emerson and Emanuel Swedenborg. Karin's friend Ingrid Sandstal took me to see her family's summer home some miles away in the hills where they would take their cattle to the summer pasture. The next day Ingrid served as docent at the open air museum where everyone was invited to wear their folk costumes that day. I also took the opportunity to examine their log buildings, the earliest of which was a storehouse from 1676.

I was happy to have visited these folks in Dala-Floda. They have an ambitious program that I believe the SCS needs to continue to support, especially because the roots of our Farmstead are there.

Now that I had visited our old friends in Bottnaryd and Dala-Floda, I turned to some new destinations. First was the Finnskogscentrum or Finn Forest Center in Torsby, Värmland. For me, coming here was especially important because of the contributions Forest Finns made to the New Sweden colony. At Torsby I learned about the many ways in which Forest Finns contributed to Sweden itself. The exhibition, "Forest Finn Landscape," explored the various aspects of the settlement of the Forest Finns in Värmland and elsewhere in Sweden: the practice of slash and burn agriculture, the



smoke oven and smoke cottage, the sauna, and the contributions to the culture of the Finnish language, music, and spirituality. Another extensive and attractive exhibition, “Lin för livet - Flax for life,” explores flax production and products. The Center houses an impressive library and research center.

I stayed for hours and was helped by the docent Sebastian Nordquist who provided a wealth of information. He offered me the free book “Finn Forest Encounters,” a guide to over a hundred Forest Finn places in five counties: Värmland, Dalarna, Örebro, Gävleborg, and Hedmark in Norway. As usual on my trips, I will have to return later to continue my explorations. The hiking possibilities alone seem limitless. Just down the street from the Center is an extensive open air museum with many log buildings moved here from the surrounding area. Each such museum has its own interesting local variations.

Then, next day, on to Mårbacka, also in Värmland, the home of the writer Selma Lagerlöf, the first woman to win the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1909. The farm and manor house at Mårbacka was the author’s beloved childhood home. The family lost the estate because of financial difficulties, but eventually with the success of her writing career Lagerlöf was able to buy it back and transform it into the elegant museum and estate it is today. As it was late in the season, the guided

tour of the manor house was only available in Swedish, so I had to be content with that for now. The grounds were beautiful and the permanent exhibition in the barn about the author’s life and works was informative. There was also a bookstore and café. The drive back along Upper Fryken Lake with its rocky cliffs was memorable. My next stop was an Airbnb room in the town of Bollnäs which is in Gävleborg County and in the province of Hälsingland as well. From here I would spend two days visiting several of the famous seven UNESCO-designated Decorated Farmhouses of Hälsingland. To quote the World Heritage Committee, these farmhouses “with their highly decorative rooms for festivities, reflect an extraordinary combination of timber building and folk art traditions, the wealth and social status of the independent farmers who built them, and the final flowering of a long cultural tradition in Hälsingland.” I took tours in English in two of them: Gästgivars and Erik-Anders. As might be expected, the tour guides focus on styles and methods of decoration, both of the interiors and furniture. Both places had stores offering decoration-related products. Personal family stories--often touching ones--are referred to as well. The farmhouses are often privately owned and operated by the owners. One called Kristofers was a bustling farm. The farmer told me his wife conducts tours. Even though I came late for one, I was allowed to



take photos from the outside. Their farmstead had three large two-story log buildings situated to form a courtyard: this was a typical arrangement.

I learned there are over 1000 such farmhouse complexes in the region, most of which are not UNESCO-recognized. Besides their unique and often centuries-old wooden houses and barns forming picturesque farmsteads, they usually have historical exhibits and often offer restaurants and gift shops. I visited several of these. I found all of these farmsteads fascinating, UNESCO-approved or not.

I had heard that the town of Sigtuna was worth visiting, so I went there next without knowing anything about it. I'm so glad I did: it's a must for anyone interested in the history of Sweden. It has a small town feel with a welcoming park overlooking Lake Mälaren. This is a great place to relax after experiencing the moderately-sized but informative museum nearby. Founded in the 970's, Sigtuna is the oldest continuously occupied town in Sweden. The town center has 3 church ruins and 12 rune stones. The Stora Gatan, or Main Street, is the oldest preserved street in Sweden and it offers cafes and interesting stores.

A few miles away is the old crofter village of Viby. It's a small place--I walked through it in 15 minutes. There are just 7

farms scattered across the hilly land, each with a group of log buildings: a home and several farm outbuildings. A crofter is a farmer who rents his land from a landowner and, in this case, the land used to be part of the estate of the nearby Venngarn Castle. I found the place magical, like the Shire in *The Hobbit*. There was just one person working in a field, Marie Tegnefjord, who with her master baker husband Pelle operates a bakery in Sigtuna and part-time at Viby. Here is a link for their bakery: <https://www.destinationsigtuna.se/sv/verksamheter/viby-by-cafe/>

After two days exploring Sigtuna and environs, I went to a place called Sävja to meet with Hans-Björn Ericksson. HB (as he is called) has been a good friend of the Society in the past. Leif Lundquist suggested I meet with him, as he has long worked at the Linnaeus' house museum complex at Sävja. Linnaeus is the Swedish biologist and plant taxonomist, one of whose students was the botanist Per Kalm who traveled to New Sweden. In 1758, Linnaeus purchased two farms in the parish of Danmark, one in Hammarby and one in Sävja. Of the two historical sites, Sävja is the humbler one, but its exhibits offer much of interest (I wasn't able to visit Hammarby this time around). After we viewed the house museum, HB showed me his hops garden, Rambo apple tree, and beer-brewing operation. He made us both a great lunch at the museum cafe: gravdax and potato salad. Then he took me to his house nearby to show me his garden which revealed his own botanical expertise. HB is joining the Society and like Leif would like to be one of our supporters in Sweden.

My trip to Sweden was at an end. I hope this travelogue has been of some interest.

I enjoyed discovering Sweden in this way even though I am aware that I am just scratching the surface, as they say: all the more reason to return next year to pick up on what I missed!

TOP of PAGE: A scene from the crofter village Viby near Sigtuna.  
PHOTO CREDIT: JOE MATHEWS (2024)



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Current SCS Governor Joe Mathews is also the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the New Sweden Company (NSC), formed in 1983 to build and maintain the New Sweden Colonial Farmstead and all artifacts associated with it. He is also a part-time employee of the Lummis Library of Cumberland County Historical Society (CCHS) in Greenwich NJ.

# Celebrating the New Sweden Heritage Monument

by Joseph Mathews with help from Erik Burro

PENNSVILLE, NJ On Saturday, June 8, 2024, I had the pleasure as Governor of The Swedish Colonial Society to be among those in attendance at the 20th Anniversary Commemoration of the **New Sweden Heritage Monument** that stands by the walkway overlooking the Delaware River at Riverview Beach Park in **Pennsville**.

The theme underscoring the preliminary program leading up to the sunset ceremony was “Pass the Torch..... Study the Past and Preserve It for Future Generations.” Besides myself, there were guests from Salem County historical societies and churches, from the New Sweden Centre in Wilmington, and some locals who can trace their families back to the early Swedish and Finnish settlers. The program began at 5 PM at St. Ambrose Lutheran Church in Pennsville. After an invocation by Pastor Dwight Mason, some background about the Monument was provided by public history advocate, Erik L. Burro, of Burlington, who then introduced a series of brief informal presentations by members of the audience about their relationship to New Sweden history and their various roles in bringing about public awareness and appreciation for that early chapter of New Jersey’s history, the New Sweden colony. I described how my work in New Jersey for the Cumberland County Historical Society and the New Sweden Company had led to my affiliation with the Swedish Colonial Society.

After this program, a light meal was provided in the church hospitality room. Then participants drove to Riverview Beach Park for the commemoration ceremony



at the New Sweden Heritage Monument, scheduled for 7:30 PM. Despite living in New Jersey, I had not visited the Monument previously and was impressed by its thoughtful design and commanding position along the riverbank, south of the Delaware Memorial Bridge which can be seen upriver, at a distance. In his opening remarks, host Erik Burro described how the Salem County artist, Aleasa Hogate, had been involved in every aspect of the Monument. Not only had she conceived of it, she had also created its thoughtful and informative design elements, personally selected the stone at the quarry, and campaigned for its location and sponsorship financing. With her late husband Joseph’s assistance, the couple supervised the myriad steps of construction and various engineering approvals required. Erik related how--after the Monument’s location had been chosen and before its construction--he had tossed a newly minted uncirculated 2004 silver dollar out into the Delaware River as a sign of good luck for Aleasa’s ambitious project.

Featured on either side of the monument are two large bronze medallions. One depicts a Swedish farmer outside

of his log cabin dwelling. The other shows the Swedes in a church boat crossing the often dangerous river to attend church on the west bank. Surrounding the farmer illustration are the words “Land of the Lenape... Settlement of the Swedes and Finns” and surrounding the church boat image are these: “The Delaware River... Highway of the Swedes and Finns.” On one side of the stone monument, deeply carved in the lower right corner are the Three Crowns, symbol of the Kingdom of Sweden, the use of which required special permission from the Swedish government. Erik dramatically described the scene of the dedication ceremony on June 6, 2004, Sweden’s National Day. There were many in attendance then, including the Swedish Ambassador Jan Eliasson and the Speaker from the Parliament of Finland. The event had included 17th Century Swedish military re-enactors and music and dances provided by members of South Jersey’s Native American community.

Although there was much activity at Riverview Beach Park on the day we were there, only those who were using the footpath along the riverbank witnessed our group. We had fewer attending today than in 2004, but everyone seemed to feel a genuine and heartfelt appreciation of Aleasa’s contribution to the heritage of New Jersey and the entire Delaware Valley and that of her hometown. Deputy Mayor of Pennsville Scott Hourigan read the township’s Resolution recognizing June 6th as New Sweden Heritage Day and cited the gratitude of the Township on the 20th Anniversary of the New Sweden Heritage Monument. Following the deputy mayor’s presentation, all attendees were invited to hold hands and form a circle around the Monument as Paul M. Hogate, Aleasa’s son, stepped forward without accompaniment and sang well and forcefully the Swedish national anthem “Du gamla, du fria... thou ancient, thou free...” as he had done when the monument was officially unveiled in 2004. While the anniversary ceremony had come to a close, there was much picture-taking and conversation as the sun gradually set across the river. As she sat next to the monument that had been her creation, Aleasa reminded her well-wishers to be dedicated and imaginative as they Pass the Torch into the Future.



**OPPOSITE PAGE:** Aleasa Hogate seated before the New Sweden Heritage Monument.

PHOTO CREDIT: JOE MATHEWS.

**BOTTOM LEFT:** Erik Burro, speaker.  
PHOTO CREDIT: KATHLEEN HALL-DITCHFIELD.

## *Bengt Faleskog receives the New Sweden Historic Preservation Award*

In the Spring 2024 issue of the Journal, we reported on the Swedish Colonial Society’s conferring of the New Sweden Historic Preservation Award on Swedish historian, museum curator, and craftsman Bengt Faleskog of Bottnaryd, Sweden (see pages 16-17). We recently received word from Anna Gillek, president of the Bottnaryd Home Village Association (Hembygdsförening), that the award was officially presented in a ceremony at the headquarters of the Association on June 6, 2024--Swedish National Day--to Mr. Faleskog by Bottnaryd deputy mayor Joakim Dahlström.

Mr. Dahlström read the Resolution aloud--the text is in the Journal article--and presented the Award Certificate to Mr. Faleskog, who then gave a speech of thanks. We are very happy that Bengt Faleskog received the Award--which expressed our recognition and appreciation of his years of labor on behalf of the history of New Sweden and Governor Printz--in such a fitting ceremony. Bengt is the acknowledged leader of the Johan Printz Foundation and that organization’s New Sweden Museum is a unique resource for the visitor interested in the New Sweden Colony and in Governor Johan Printz.

More information about the Bottnaryd Home Village Association can be found at <https://www.hembygd.se/bottnaryd>.

Kudos also to President Anna Gillek for organizing the ceremony.



Above: Craftsman Bengt Faleskog of Bottnaryd, Sweden, awarded Preservation Award.  
PHOTO CREDIT: ANNA GILLEK

# The Provost-Marshal of New Sweden

By Kenneth S. Peterson

**G**rowing up in the 1960s, westerns were popular television shows. Marshal Matt Dillon of *Gunsmoke* was a gun-slinging sheriff. As my ancestor was one of the “Marshals” of the New Sweden colony, I wanted to know more about that position and what was involved.

So, I did some digging.

Provost-Marshals in New Sweden were officers who assisted the Governor in enforcing the law as given by Swedish authority and the company’s shareholders. They apprehended law-breakers, retrieved runaway colonists, and likely carried out capital punishment when an executioner was not available. It’s nice to know that due to financial restraints and the sudden end of the colony, no executioner was ever sent to New Sweden.

The Provost-Marshal was a military position. There were two levels of officers in the Swedish military at the time: upper officers and lower officers. The position of Provost-Marshal was within the lower officer ranks.

The pay of the Provost-Marshal was commensurate with this status. Listed below is the annual pay scale of the New Sweden administration during the years 1643 to 1644.<sup>1</sup>

## MILITARY

Johan Printz, Governor	1200 Rix Dalers (RD)
Sven Skute, Lieutenant	288 RD
Gregorius van Dyck, Head Guard	180 RD
Anders Svensson Bonde, Gunner	144 RD
Karl Håkansson, Corporal	108 RD
Eric Andersson, Trumpeter	108 RD
Sven Andersson, Drummer	90 RD
Johan Olofsson, Provost-Marshal	108 RD

Twenty-four common soldiers 1728 RD  
(72 RD each)

## CIVIC

Johan Campanius (Holm), Preacher	180 RD
Hans Jenke, Barber-Surgeon	180 RD
Knut Persson, Bookkeeper	144 RD

During the 17 years of Swedish rule on the Delaware, there were five Provost-Marshals in all.<sup>2</sup> They were:

**William Laury**, apparently an Englishman, served from 1638 to 1640.

**Jöran Olsson**, from Ösmo in Stockholm, arrived in 1641 aboard the third expedition. The records indicate his wife in Sweden collected his pay. He returned to Göteborg on the *Swan* on August 11, 1643, and was paid 44.9 RD by Timon von Schottingen.<sup>3</sup>

**Johan Olofsson** was hired as a company servant on board the *Fama* en route on November 10, 1642. He served as provost marshal at Fort Christina and was sent to Maryland to persuade Swedish deserters to return to the colony. He returned to Sweden with Governor Printz in 1653.<sup>4</sup>

**Anders Larsson Daalbo**, born in Dalarna, arrived in 1640 on the *Kalmar Nyckel*. He was appointed Provost Marshal in 1647 and paid 6 Rix Dalers per month. After the Dutch takeover of the New Sweden colony, Governor Peter Stuyvesant offered him the rank “Lieutenant of the Upriver Swedes” in 1655. At present, he has descendants living in New Jersey.

**Måns Persson Stake**, from Åbo in Finland, served in Johan Risingh’s administration and was persuaded by the Dutch to remain in New Amsterdam after the surrender of New Sweden. There, he founded the settlement at Harlem. In 1671, he returned to the “Swedish Nation”

## Sandra Pfaff Presents

on the Delaware. His descendants, too, are spread throughout South Jersey.

Records of the duties of these and other Provost-Marshals can be found in several sources. Alf Aberg, in his *The People of New Sweden*, describes Johan Printz' civilian and military staff, including a "provost or executioner."<sup>5</sup> Amandus Johnson, in his masterpiece on New Sweden, records that Daalbo replaced Olofsson in 1647 and was supplied with handcuffs and other tools of his profession; he may have carried out the execution of Anders Jönsson in 1653. This normally would have been done by a designated executioner, but this office was never filled, although Risingh after his arrival sent a request for one "in order to put down the mutiny [launched against Printz]. Through this much disorder would be prevented which otherwise might hereafter break out through secret plots."<sup>6</sup> The records indicate that at another time, the Dutch governor in New Amsterdam ordered his provost-marshal to capture Swedish runaways and place them on a Swedish sloop sailing for New Sweden. Duties under the English in New Jersey appear in *New Jersey Patent and Deeds, 1664-1703*, where the following can be found:

1) Order to the Provost-Marshal to enforce the judgment against the persons convicted of riot by the special court of Bergen.<sup>7</sup>

2) Order to Samuel Moore, Provincial Marshal, to collect the fines imposed by the court of Oyer and Terminer at Bergen.<sup>8</sup>

Thus, it would appear the duties of the provost-marshal were the same in the Swedish, Dutch, and English colonies—maintain order, keep the jail, collect fines, and serve as executioner, if needed.

### BIBLIOGRAPHY

<sup>1</sup>Amandus Johnson, *The Swedish Settlements on the Delaware*, Volume 1, page 451.

<sup>2</sup>Gregorius van Dyke is here listed as Head Guard. He may have held the office of provost-marshal temporarily during the "mutiny" against Printz. His mention may also have been an error. See *Colonial Records of the Swedish Churches in Pennsylvania*, Volume 1, page 24, and Johnson, Volume 2, pages 699, 703, 710, and 716.

<sup>3</sup>*Swedish American Genealogist*, September 1996, page 237.

<sup>4</sup>Peter Stebbins Craig, *Swedish American Genealogist*, Volume XVII, Nr 1, page 16.

<sup>5</sup>Alf Aberg, *The People of New Sweden*, page 47.

<sup>6</sup>Johan Risingh, *Journal*, page 185, says it was done by firing squad. See also *Colonial Records*, Volume 1, page 19.

<sup>7</sup>1673.

<sup>8</sup>1674.

SCS Councillor Sandra Pfaff gave a presentation at the November 27 meeting of the Emergency Aid of Pennsylvania Foundation, which celebrated its 110th anniversary. She was subsequently honored for her long service in this organization dedicated to supporting women in need with educational scholarships and mentoring. Congratulations, Sandra!

## Fort Altena Case Corrected



A translation by Charles Gehring of the New Netherlands Research Center of a court proceeding at Fort Altena in

1663 appeared on page 10 of our Fall 2023 issue. Several errors escaped us and deserve correction for the sake of accuracy.

*Please make the following corrections:*

- Vice Director Beeckman served as **schout** (prosecutor), not "sc/zozlf"!
- Peter **Kock** was among the present, not "Peter Kook!"
- One of the parties was **Sven Swenson's** wife, not "Swan."
- The Commissioner shown blood was Math. **Hanssen**, not "jenssen."
- And the fines imposed were 100 **Guilders**, not "builders" and 50 Guilders.



# Julmiddag

Dec. 21, 2024

Corinthian Yacht Club

ESSINGTON, PA • \$50 per person

## *The Annual Julmiddag of The Swedish Colonial Society December 21, 2024*

This year we'll be holding our Christmas Luncheon or Jul middag on Saturday, December 21, 2024. Once again it will be at the Corinthian Yacht Club, which is adjacent to Governor Printz Park in Essington, PA. We will start at 11:30 AM in Printz Park at the Main Residence of the Swedish Farmstead where we will put some finishing touches on our holiday decorations. Then at Noon we will convene at the Corinthian Yacht Club where we'll first enjoy socializing during a cocktail hour with Glögg, or Swedish spiced wine punch. Then a welcome by Governor Mathews, the singing of our national anthems, and toasts. At 1 PM starts the buffet-style luncheon followed by a dessert of Buche de Noel or Yule Log Cake.

At 2 PM, musical entertainment will be provided by Will Ireland. Will plays the mandola and is the creator of the Hagathorn Folk Music Project and a recording artist on the Swedish record label Nordvis.

This brief concert will be followed by the Holiday Raffle conducted by Ken Alexy.

Our program concludes between 3 and 4 PM.

Please consider supporting the Society's educational programs by donating as a Benefactor (\$100) or as a Sponsor (\$50) with a listing in our Holiday Program.

Donated gifts for the Raffle are gladly accepted!!!  
Reservations for the luncheon will be \$50 per person.

**Corinthian Yacht Club is located at 300 West 2nd Street, Essington PA 19029.**

*DIRECTIONS: From I-95 take Exit 9 and follow Wanamaker Avenue (PA Route 420) east toward the Delaware River. Turn right on West 2nd Street. You will see Governor Printz Park on the left and then adjacent to it is the Corinthian Yacht Club which offers ample and free parking. We hope to share the Christmas spirit with you!*

Inquiries may be sent to Linda at [kennethbykota@verizon.net](mailto:kennethbykota@verizon.net) or by calling (215) 677-2046.  
Send your check, payable to The Swedish Colonial Society, c/o  
Linda Alexy, 438 Regina Street, Philadelphia PA 19116-2405, no later than December 16, 2024.  
Please include the names of all those in your party for name tags.



# Finnish Monument to be Moved to Tinicum

By Marja Kaisla

To Commemorate the 300th anniversary of the Finns' arrival in the Delaware Valley, the Republic of Finland in 1938 made a gift to the people of the United States: an 11-ft high granite monument, created by one of the most important Finnish sculptors, Wäinö Aaltonen. The base stone was quarried in Rautalampi, Finland, which was the home of the great-grandparents of John Morton, renowned for his role in approving the Declaration of Independence.

The monument was first placed in Chester Park, but had to be moved in 1955, because of the construction of I-95, a major highway. It now stands on a small triangular make-shift park bordering the roaring highway. As the City of Chester has experienced a steady economic and social decline for the past decades, the Finnish

American Society of the Delaware Valley Board began exploring the possibility of moving the monument. After scouting out a proper placement both in Pennsylvania and Delaware, FASDV was pleased to reach an agreement in principle with Tinicum Township to move the monument and the benches to Governor Printz Park. This will secure the future of this important piece of history, which marks Finns, along with the Swedes, as the first permanent European settlers in the Delaware Valley.

An active fund-raising campaign has begun by the FASDV, which believes the move of the monument to a safe location with high visibility is of paramount importance. For more information, email [mjkaisla@yahoo.com](mailto:mjkaisla@yahoo.com).

Donations should be sent directly to: Finlandia Foundation, 254 N, Lake Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91101 and marked "Finnish Settlers 1938 Fund"

**LEFT:** The Finnish Monument at its present location in Chester, PA.

**INSET:** Damaged Bench at monument site. PHOTO CREDIT: JOE MATHEWS



## IN MEMORIUM

**Ellen Thompson Rye** died on February 9, 2024, after a lengthy illness, at the age of 90. She served on the SCS Council and lived in Silver Spring, Maryland. She was a close friend of Peter Craig and an expert on Swedish immigration to the United States. Her husband, Ray, while employed at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., authenticated bricks from the Printzhof site as originating in the Netherlands.



**Anna Doriney Lofgren Seagers**, former devoted Registrar of the Society from 2001-2010, died at the age of 79 in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, on March 12, 2023. She was born in Putnam, Connecticut, among Swedish-speaking immigrants from Närpes, Finland. She and her husband James were also active members of the American Swedish Historical Museum. Jim and Doriney lived in the bucolic gated community of Hersey's Mill in West Chester, Pennsylvania. When they were active in the Society, they arranged a memorable Forefather's Luncheon at the Country club there. She was honored as a "Fellow" of the Society in 2008. James, her husband, predeceased her in 2021.

**Larry Spencer Stallcop** died on December 9, 2023, in Virginia Beach, Virginia, at the age of 84. He was a Forefather Member descended from Johan Andersson Stålkoffa, who arrived in New Sweden in 1641. Larry had a lifelong interest in genealogy, being a distant cousin of our longtime Swedish Councilor, Hans Ling. He also had special expertise in the fortifications of the New Sweden colony. His wife, Roslyn, is a talented artist whose imaginative watercolor image of Fort Christina is displayed in our New Sweden Historical Gallery at the Lazaretto.

# NEW SWEDEN LEGACY SERIES

The annual New Sweden Conference has been updated and will have a new format in 2025.

Instead of a fall meeting, monthly sessions online via Zoom will begin in January and be held then, as well as in February and March. The April session will take place at the American Swedish Historical Museum in Philadelphia.

Assistant Director Lauren Burnham, when interviewed, said the new approach was “better suited to host speakers from across the country and Scandinavia.” She also expects a broader audience to attend and to actively participate in these events.

January, February and March sessions have been scheduled. See right for topics.

Plans for the April session are still being worked out. Burnham urged interested people to check the Museum’s Website for the latest information. The Website is <http://www.americanswedish.org>.

**Mark Your Calendar**

**Jan 2025**  
Paul Kahan will present “Diversity, Conflict, and the Memory Hole—Investigating Philadelphia’s History.”

**Feb 2025**  
Jay Smith will bring “An Introduction To John Morton: America’s Finnish Founding Father.”

**Mar 2025**  
Evan Haefeli will consider “New Sweden’s Colonists Under Dutch Rule, 1655-1664.”

**Check Out [www.americanswedish.org](http://www.americanswedish.org) for more Info!**

## 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



**Forefather Director, Beverly B. Walker**

## NEW FOREFATHER MEMBERS

**James Morton Blackman**, having been authenticated by the Forefather Director, has proven his ancestry to his Forefather, Hans Mansson and wife Ella Stille Jochimsson, through their son James Mansson Steelman and his wife, Susannah Toy Steelman. His line continues through daughter Mary Steelman and her second husband, Andrew Blackman.

**Arlene Louise Hammons**, having been authenticated by the Forefather Director, has proven her ancestry to her Forefather Carl Christophersson Springer and his wife, Maria Hendricksdotter Springer, through their son, Charles Springer, and his wife, Margaret Robinson Springer. This line continues through grandson Charles Springer and his wife, Susannah Seeds Springer.

**Theresa Brasko - Registrar**

## NEW MEMBERSHIP NEW INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

Kathleen Lundberg Clements  
Deatsville AL 36022

Karen Johnson Griffin  
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Sarah Kathryn Curtis  
Huntsville AL 35802

Rev. David Carl Olson  
Manhasset NY 11030

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Pittsburgh PA 15221

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Sweden

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Northbrook IL 60062

Philip Friedlund  
St Paul 55102

Craig Philip Steelman  
Yadkinville NC 27055

## NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Alina L. Abraham  
Silver Spring MD 20902

Linnea Abraham  
Silver Spring MD 20902



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

*As of April 12, 2024*

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