

the Timen Stiddem Society

NEWSLETTER



The family history newsletter for the descendants of the immigrant from Sweden in the seventeenth century to New Sweden (Wilmington), Delaware, encompassing the surnames: Stidham, Steadham, Stedham, Stidam and Steddom among many others.

ISSUE 73
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President's Message: 2

Editor's Desk: 3

Current Stidham*
News: 4

Celebrating Holy
Trinity Church's 320th
Anniversary: 6



Our *Other* New Sweden
Forefathers, Part V,
Sinnick Broer: 8

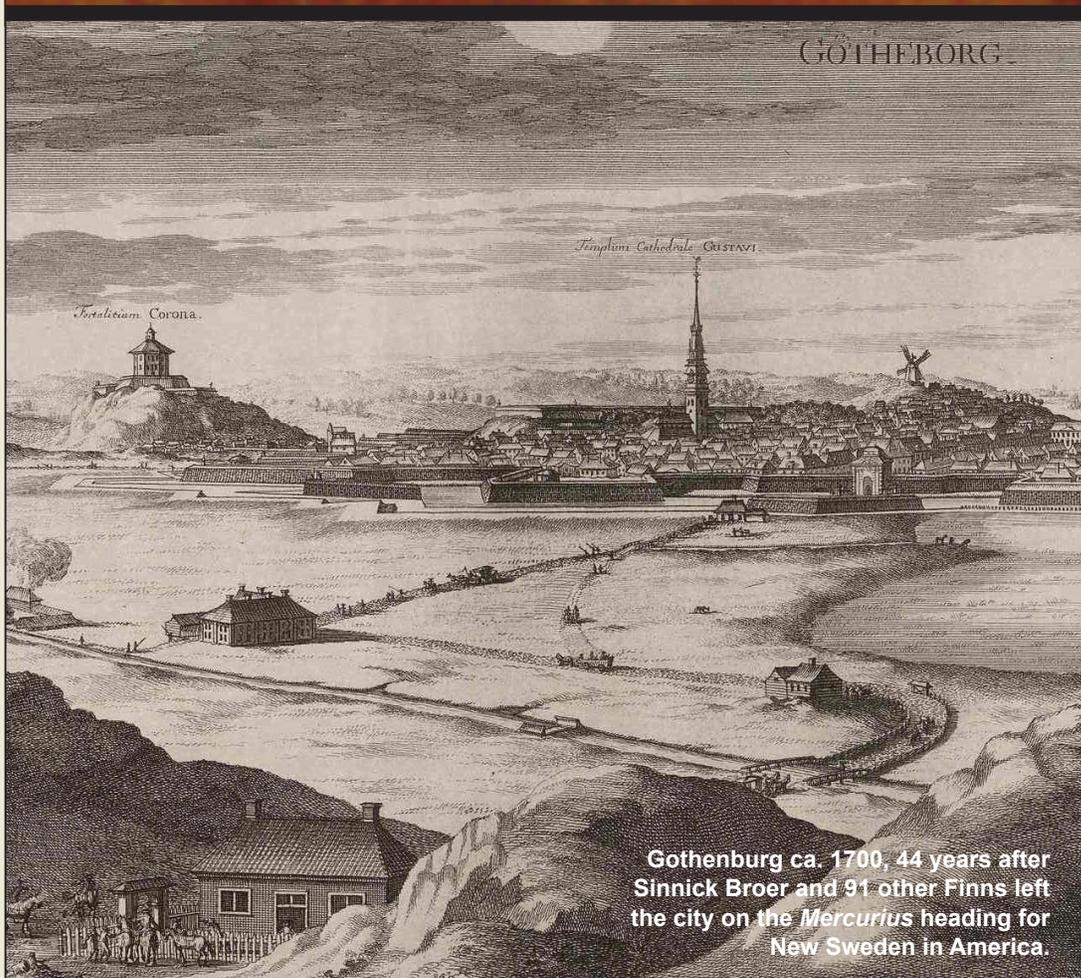
Finding Early
Swedish-American
Furniture: 14

Deception: The Loss
of New Sweden by
Governor Risingh,
Part IV: 17

Calendar of Events: 22

TSS Marketplace: 23

Our Other New Sweden Forefathers



Part
V

Sinnick Broer the Finn
and his Sinex, Sinnickson &
Falkenberg Descendants

Our *Other* New Sweden Forefathers, Part V: Sinnick Broer the Finn and his Sinex, Sinnickson & Falkenberg Descendants

By Dr. Peter S. Craig



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Among the 92 Finns aboard the *Mercurius* when the ship arrived on the Delaware in March 1656 was the family of Sinnick Broer, a group of five which included his wife, a daughter and two sons, Broer and Anders Sinnicksson.

Sinnick considered himself lucky. When the ship left Göteborg in November 1655, less than half of the Finns wanting to come to New Sweden could be accommodated. Over half of them who, like Sinnick, had sold all of their possessions and counted on being given

space on the *Mercurius*, were left behind.

But, on arrival in the Delaware, a new shock arose. Unknown to anyone on board, from Lieutenant Johan Papegoja and Commissary Hendrick Huygen down to the passengers and crew, New Sweden did not exist any more. The colony had been surrendered to the Dutch the preceding September. Even worse, Jean Paul Jacquet, the Dutch commander at Fort Casimir (New Castle) forbid the ship to dock and unload its cargoes and passengers. Under directions from Governor

New Sweden forefathers united by marriage to the Stidham* family

Part I
**Johan Andersson Stalcop
and Carl Jönsson**
Volume 1, Number 4

Part II
Olof Persson Stille
Volume 1, Number 16

Part III
Charles Springer
Volume 1, Number 19

Part IV
Olof Thorsson
Volume 2, Number 4

Part V
Sinnick Broer
Volume 2, Number 7

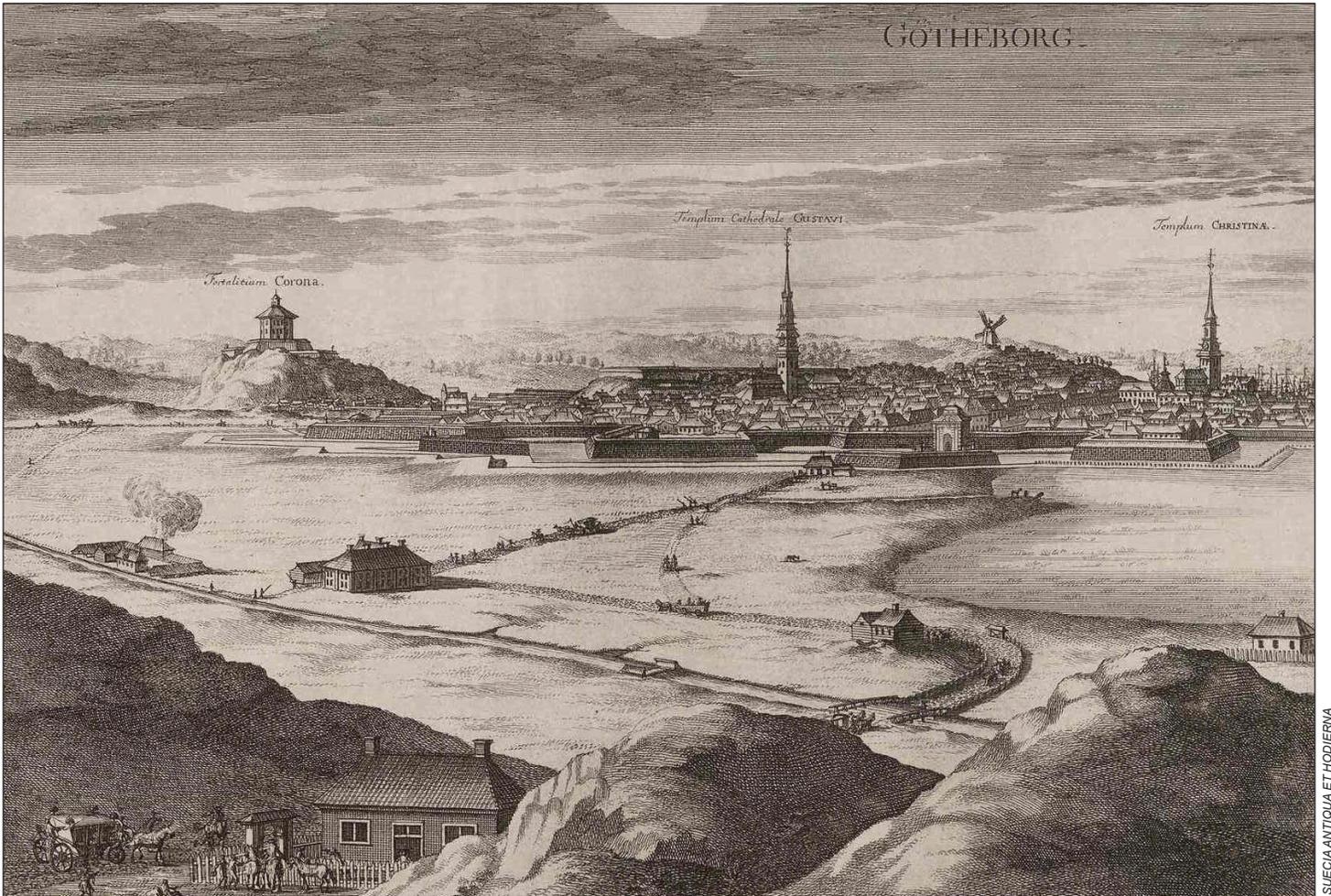
Part VI
Anders Andersson
Volume 3, Number 2

Part VII
Hans Peterson
Volume 3, Number 6

Part VIII
**Jacob Van der Veer
and Zacharias Derickson**
Volume 3, Number 10

Part IX
**Hendrick Garretson
Hendrick Hendrickson
Hendrick Jacobsson
Frederick Frederickson Konig
Peter Mansson
Olof from Slobyn
The 1693 Census of the
Swedes on the Delaware**

Each "Part" runs in nine successive issues of the newsletter. Volumes and Numbers are from the *Swedish Colonial News*.



Peter Stuyvesant, Jacquet was ordered to send the *Mercurius* back to Sweden immediately.

But the impasse was soon broken – by the local Swedish leaders and their Indian friends. Secretly during the night, Indians “in great numbers” boarded the *Mercurius* and defiantly ordered Papegoja to take the ship past the fort to Tinicum Island, where both passengers and cargo were unloaded. The Dutch did not dare to fire upon the ship with so many Indians aboard.

The arrival of 92 Finns and 13 Swedes (several of whom were returning to New Sweden) also tipped the political scales on the Delaware. Huygen traveled to New Amsterdam and negotiated a new agreement with Stuyvesant, which granted the Swedes and Finns living north of the Christina River the right of self-government, including the right to have their own court (the Upland Court), their own militia and their own religion, provided that they remain loyal to New Netherlands.

Sinnick’s name appeared briefly in the records of Fort Casimir (New Castle) when, on 10 January 1657, he was named as a party to an agreement fixing the prices that would be paid to Indians for beaver and other animal furs. The Dutch scribe entered his name as “Zenok.” Also, under Dutch rule, Sinnick Broer and two partners – Anders Andersson the Finn and Walraven Jansen DeVos (a former Dutch soldier married to Christina Ollesdotter) were granted 450 morgens (900 acres) of land on the north side of Christina River.

After the Dutch surrender to the English in 1664, this tract of land was patented to Sinnick Broer and his partners by Governor Francis Lovelace on 1 September 1669. A month later, Lovelace also issued a patent to Anders the Finn and 19 others living in the neighborhood to construct a mill on this site.

This large tract of land was called “Deer Point” in May 1671 when Walter Wharton made the first English census of the Delaware. Later, after the Dutchman Arnoldus

Gothenburg ca. 1700, 44 years after Sinnick Broer and 91 other Finns left the city on the *Mercurius* heading for New Sweden in America. Illustration From *Suecia Antiqua et Hodierna* (“Ancient and Modern Sweden”) a collection of engravings collected by Erik Dahlbergh during the middle of the 17th century.

Hendrick Jacobs Falkenberg became fluent in the language of the Lenape who are shown here negotiating a treaty with William Penn (painting by Benjamin West, 1771).



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS: BENJAMIN WEST PAINTING, 1771, PENNSYLVANIA ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS, PHILADELPHIA

de la Grange bought out the share owned by Anders the Finn, it became known as “Middleburgh.” Still later, it became known as Richardson Park, after the family which succeeded de la Grange. It is now part of Wilmington, Delaware.

During Wharton’s visit to Deer Point in 1671, Sinnick Broer informed Wharton that he also had purchased 100 morgens (200 acres) of land at Appoquinimink Creek (present Odessa, Delaware) from Daniel Andersson. Wharton dutifully made out a patent for Sinnick Broer for this second piece of land. Daniel Andersson, a Finn from Lekvattnet, Fryksände parish, in Värmland, had also been a passenger on the *Mercurius* and had received a Dutch patent for this land in 1663.

It would appear that Sinnick Broer was then planning a move to his new land at Appoquinimink Creek, for he sold his third of Deer Point to Justa Andersson, eldest son of Anders the Finn. However, within a year, Sinnick Broer was dead and the planned move came to naught. On 12 October 1672, Sinnick’s three adult children signed a statement saying, “We the heirs of Seneca Brewer have, for 930 guilders, sold to Justa Anderson his plantation at Appoquinimink.”

The Falkenberg Line

The first name listed on this sale was written as “Henry Jackson,” a poor translation of Sinnick Broer’s daughter’s husband, who was generally known as Hendrick Jacobs Falkenberg. He was a Holsteiner who immigrated to Delaware in 1663 or 1664 when the Dutch colony was recruiting farmers from northern European nations. It is unknown when he married Sinnick’s daughter or what her name was. In 1675, however, he was residing at Deer Point with Broer Sinnicksson. He then formed a partnership with Pierre Jegou, a French Huguenot, and moved to “Lazy Point,” north of present Burlington, New Jersey, where he operated an inn for travelers and native Indians. Becoming well versed in the language of the Lenape Indians, Hendrick Jacobs Falkenberg soon became the foremost Indian interpreter in New Jersey and was a party to many treaties with the Indians. In 1682 he acquired 200 acres on the south side of Rancocas Creek in Burlington County. As late as 1689 he was still listed as a member of the Swedish Church at Wicaco.

In 1679, Hendrick Jacobs and his wife were visited by a Dutch traveler, who gave this description of their house in his diary:

“The house was made according to the Swedish mode, and as they usually build their houses here, which are block-houses, being nothing else than entire trees, split through the middle, or squared out in the rough, and placed in the form of a square, upon each other, as high as they wish to have the house. The ends of these timbers are let into each other, about a foot from the ends, half of one into half of the other. The whole structure is thus made, without a nail or a spike. The ceiling and roof do not exhibit much finer work, except among the most careful people, who have the ceiling planked and a glass window. The doors are wide enough, but very low, so that you have to stoop in entering. These houses are quite tight and warm, but the chimney is placed in a corner.”

In 1697 Hendrick Jacobs Falkenberg obtained a confirmation of an earlier Indian deed for land at Little Egg Harbor on the Atlantic Coast. He moved to this location where he married a second time. He died about 1712, survived by his second wife Mary (a Quaker) and their son, Jacob Hendricks Falkenberg.

By his first marriage to Sinnick’s daughter, Hendrick had at least one son, Henry Falkenberg, who was living in Cecil County, Maryland, by 1710. He later moved with his several sons to Orange (now Frederick) County, Virginia, and then moved to Bladen County, North Carolina, by 1746. His descendants use the surnames of Faulkenberry and Fortenberry.

Broer Sinnicksson and his Sinex Descendants

Broer Sinnicksson, born in Sweden c. 1650, stayed on Sinnick Broer’s former farm at Deer Point following his father’s death and later re-acquired all of his father’s land. The chain of succession was a bit complex. After acquiring the plantation from Sinnick Broer, Justa Andersson had sold the entire property to Hans Peterson, the miller of Skilpot Creek. Peterson, in turn, sold half of the land (including the house) to Anders Jöransson, a Finn, on 27 Sept. 1672. Peterson sold the other half (undeveloped) to Matthias Matthiasson, a Swedish blacksmith.

Anders Jöransson died in late 1675, survived by his widow Sophia and five small sons. By early 1678 Sophia had married Broer Sinnicksson. On 8 May 1678, “Broer Sin-

nex, husband of Sophia, relict of Andrew Jurianson, deceased,” was granted the land of her former husband on condition that he pay his five sons 500 guilders apiece when they reached the age of 21. Meanwhile, the other half of Sinnick Broer’s plantation was reconveyed by Matthias Matthiasson to Hans Peterson, who conveyed it to Anders Sinnicksson, who conveyed it to his brother Broer.

Upon resurvey in 1684 by the new government of William Penn, Broer’s land was found to be 460 acres, for which he was granted a patent on 7 June 1686. He remained on his plantation until his death in 1708, specializing in the raising of sheep and horses as well as grain crops. With the arrival of Ericus Björk as pastor of the Swedish church, Broer was named to the Church Council and served as a faithful lay leader of the church until his death.

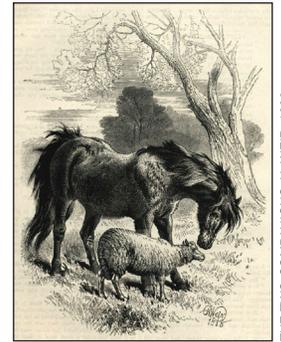
In 1703, Broer Sinnicksson made a deed of gift to his only son James of half of his plantation. In his will of 25 November 1708, Broer left the other half (including his house) to his wife Sophia for life, and after her death, to their son James for life, then to James’ eldest son Broer. The will directed that £10 be given to the church and that his young mare be given to Pastor Björk “for the funeral service which I desire him to make.” On 2 December 1708, Pastor Björk held the funeral and Broer was buried in the church under his own pew.

Sophia, Broer’s widow, died in 1717 at the home of her daughter-in-law Mary Anderson, widow of her son Jöran Andersson.

Broer and Sophia Sinnicksson had one child: James Sinnexon, who was born c. 1678. Shortly after 1700, he married Dorcas Harmensen (Dutch), daughter of Jan Harmensen of New Castle, Delaware. In 1703, they sold her father’s house in New Castle and made their home on the other half of his father’s plantation at “Middleburgh.” Shortly after the death of his father, James Sinnexon also became ill. His will, dated 29 January 1708/9 and proved 8 March 1708/9, left his half of his father’s land to his two youngest sons, John and James, after his wife Dorcas’s demise.

Through subsequent generations, the descendants of James Sinnexon gradually shortened their surname to Sinex. The three sons were:

1. Broer Sinnexon, born c. 1703, was married in 1724 to Brita, daughter of John Hendrickson and Brita Mattson. They had five



THE TWO COMPANIONS. H. WEIR, 1868

Broer Sinnicksson remained on his plantation until his death in 1708, specializing in the raising of sheep and horses as well as grain crops.

children baptized at Holy Trinity Church between 1725 and 1735. On 13 December, 1726, he and the guardian for his younger brothers sold their 50 acre mill tract at "Middleburgh" to John Richardson. On 29 January 1736/7 Broer and his two brothers formally divided the remainder of their grand-



Deeply in debt to his brother John, Broer sold his pews in the church to his brother James in September 1744 and announced he was moving to another province.

father's "Middleburgh" estate, each obtaining

138 acres. Over the next several years, Broer sold all of his share and acquired a lot in Newport in 1744.

Deeply in debt to his brother John, Broer sold his pews in the church to

his brother James in September 1744 and announced he was moving to another province. He next appeared in Bladen County, North Carolina, where he was granted land in 1746 on the south side of the Pee Dee River. In the meantime, his brother John sued Broer for a debt of £100, causing the sheriff to confiscate and sell Broer's remaining property in New Castle County. On 19 August 1746, on the petition of his abandoned wife Brita, his eldest son, also named Broer, was bound out to Andrew Morton for four and one-half years.

Meanwhile, on 27 February 1746/7, Brewer Sinnixon married the widow Ann Dewit in Winyaw, South Carolina. She owned 300 acres on the north side of the Wateree River in Craven County, S.C., which had been originally laid out 21 November 1746, and which she sold on 26 March 1756 under the name of Ann Sinnixon. Broer was clearly dead by this time. His property on the Pee Dee River was later claimed by his Falkenberg cousins, who claimed that Broer Sinnexon had died without heirs, except for a son who drowned in Virginia.

This was not entirely true. Broer's first wife, Brita, died of pleurisy on 27 March 1755 in New Castle County at the age of 50 and was buried at Old Swedes Church in Wilmington. Her meager estate was administered by George Patton, who had married her daughter Maria, born in 1733.

2. John Sinnexon, born c. 1705, was married on 9 December 1726 to Ingeborg, the daughter of Matthias Tussey and Anna Stidham.

During their 20 years of marriage they had eight children born between 1727 and 1744: Dorcas, John, Sara, Anna, Catharine, Ingeborg, Susanna and Maria. John Sinnex died in 1746 at his "Middleburgh" farm. His widow, Ingeborg Tussey, married Edward Robinson on 17 December 1752. She died 7 June 1768 at the age of 64.

3. James Sinnexon, born c. 1707, was married on 20 January 1730 to Margaret, daughter of John and Margaret Vardeman of Appoquinimink Hundred. James became a tailor and seems to have prospered. He and Margaret had 11 children born between 1731 and 1752, of whom four are known to have lived to adulthood and married – Henry, John, James and Margaret. Both parents were still living on their "Middleburgh" farm in 1767.

Anders Sinnicksson and his Sinnickson Descendants

Anders Sinnicksson, born in Sweden c. 1651, did not return to his father's farm after his father's death. In 1677 he was residing at Feren Hook on the south side of Christina River and by 1678 he had married Margaret Poulson. On 7 January 1678/9 he was sued for medicines supplied to his wife and child. Later in the same year he moved to Chestnut Neck in Salem County, where he was granted 260 acres north of Parting Creek. This would remain his home for the rest of his life.

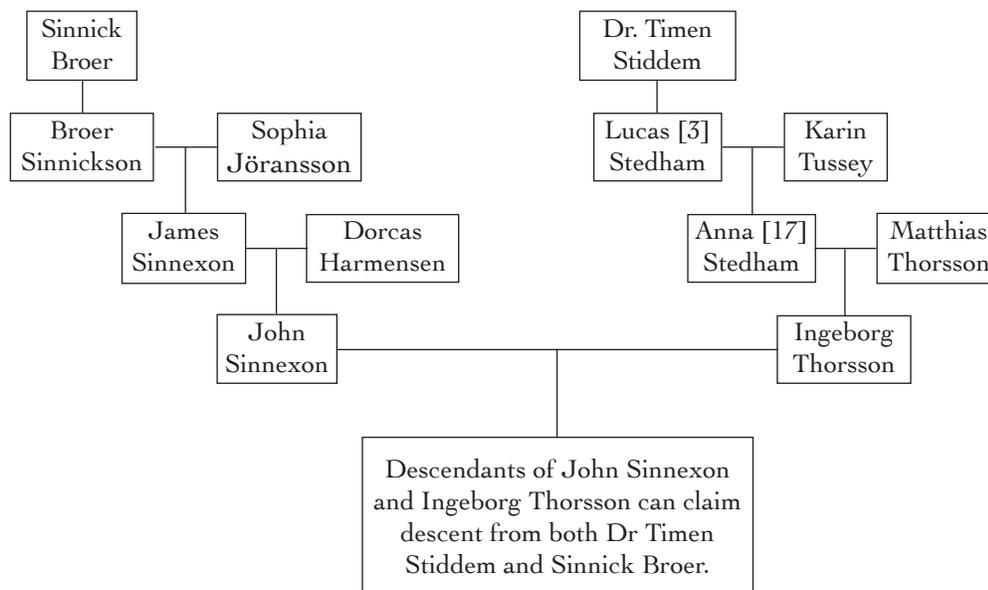
After giving birth to two children (Ingrid and John), Anders' wife Margaret died. His second wife, Sarah, was the mother of his other five children. Anders Sinnicksson wrote his will on 17 June 1696, but it was not proved until 4 April 1700. He had given two and one-half pounds for Holy Trinity Church but had probably died before 24 June 1699, when only his wife was assigned a pew in the new church. His widow, Sarah Sinnicksson, was buried at the Penn's Neck church on 27 February 1719.

All seven of his children married:

1. Ingrid Sinnickson, born c. 1678, married by 1696 Peter Bilderback and, after his death, John Hendrickson, Jr. She died in Penn's Neck on 26 March 1725.

2. John Sinnickson, born c. 1682, married Ann Philpot Gilljohnson, 28 January 1725,

Pedigree chart linking these New Sweden families



and had three children (John, Sarah and Sinnick) before his death in Penn's Neck in November 1739.

3. Andrew Sinnickson, born c. 1691, married Maria Weinam c. 1712. Both parents and their infant son Andrew died in 1713.

4. Sinnick Sinnickson, born c. 1693, married Maria Philpot 31 October 1717. He died in Penns Neck in 1750, survived by a son Andrew Sinnickson, who was later described by pastor Nicholas Colin as the wealthiest Finn in West New Jersey.

5. Margaret Sinnickson, born c. 1695, married [1] Thomas Vickery, [2] Albert Bilderback, and [3] William Mecum. She died of palsy in Penn's Neck on 12 March 1770.

6. Catharina Sinnickson, born c. 1697, married Christiern Peterson on 10 May 1716. She was buried 17 April 1721 at Penns Neck.

7. Dorothea Sinnickson, born c. 1699, married Oney Stanley, 27 November 1718. She died in Penn's Neck after 1727.

John Sinnicksson, the youngest son

John Sinnickson, the youngest son of Sinnick Broer, was born in America c. 1660 and

first appeared in public records in 1677 when he was first listed as taxable (age 16 or more) in New Castle County. He later moved across the Delaware to Upper Penn's Neck where he purchased 200 acres of land in Piles Grove on 23 July 1698. Shortly before this, he had married Gertrude, the daughter of Isaac Savoy and Brigitta Hendrickson.

John Sinnickson wrote his will on 18 December 1729, but he did not die until 1735. He actively supported construction of Holy Trinity Church in Wilmington in 1698-1699 and later attended the Swedish church in Swedesboro, New Jersey. He and his wife had eight known children, of whom two are known to have married:

1. Andrew Sinnickson, born c. 1698, married [1] Helena Friend by 1721. She died the same year and he married [2] Elizabeth Greenway in 1730. Andrew died in Piles Grove in 1764, survived by two daughters, Elizabeth (wife of William Tuft) and Ebajah (wife of Jonathan Beasley).

2. Brigitta Sinnickson, born c. 1710, married Ephraim Friend in 1731.

John was also survived by two other children, Stephen and Susannah, whose fate has not been determined.



The Swedish Colonial Society is pleased to announce that additional certificates can be attained for those Forefather Members who can prove lineage from more than one Forefather. To start the process, contact the SCS Registrar at Registrar@ColonialSwedes.net.