Pioneer Finns and Swedes of Delaware Valley Before William Penn

By Emil Lincoln Ostman

»After this, return thou homewards From thy visit to the storehouse, As the joy of all thy kindred, And of all thy race the fairest.»

(Kalevala)
Early Finnish Settlers of Delaware Valley

INTRODUCTION:

FINLAND'S ANCIENT TRADITIONS AND HERITAGE

Origin of the ancient Finns (Suomalaiset) is yet unknown, and many enigmatic conceptions have been theorized by eminent historians. The unique phonetic Finnish language, generally classified as Finno-Ugric, has persisted through the ages. Dialects of the language of Finns are spoken among some of the Russian occupied peoples of the Volga Regions, northward, and in the Baltic countries, especially as Estonians and Karelians. Authentic origin of Finns is about as vague as the factual origin of the Celts, Cretans, Etruscans, Scythians, Hittites, Sumerians, and some of the other surmised ethnologies of peoples of ancient civilizations. However, Finns are of the Caucasian Race, and are neither Mongols nor Lappes, ethnologically.

At the beginning of the Russian Empire nomadic Finns were spread somewhat in the regions which later became known as the western part of Russia, and northward around the Baltic lands. They probably originated among the ancients of early civilizations, west of the Ural Mts., or Asia Minor, and migrated northward through the Volga Regions as nomads, eventually to the Baltic, and settled into Finland (Suomi) before the 1st Century A.D.

By the year 1000 A.D., Suomi, (Finland of today) had already established permanent settlements reflecting its traditional culture, inherent in the ancient "Runes" of the Finnish National Epic "Kalevala", which have been handed down through generations perpetuated by "Runosingers", accompanied by the ancient Finnish "Kantele". The ancient "Runes" were collected by Elias Lonroth as the traditional Finnish National Epic "Kalevala". The Kalevala has been a great influence in Finnish cultural life, and many writers, artists, composers, and especially Jean Sibelius, have been inspired by the idiom and many of the folklore motives in the national epic. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow in writing his Indian epic poem "Hiawatha", in iambic-pentameter rhythm, was influenced by the Kalevala. Some Christianity was already inSuomi (Finland) a few centuries before the first Swedish Crusade by the English Bishop Henry, under the Swedish King Eric and Pope Adrian IV, in 1155, establishing the Catholic Church. Catholicism was the dominating religion of Sweden-Finland until the Reformation, when Lutheranism was championed by Swedish Royalty, and the Lutheran Church became the State Church of the Kingdom of Sweden-Finland.

The Grand Duchy of Finland was a pawn and battlefield of wars between Sweden and Russia, for five centuries (1300-1806), almost continuously in every Finnish generation; and the southeastern Karelia Province of Finland was intermittently overrun by Russian troops.

In 1809, the union between Finland and Sweden ended. Finland became an autonomous Grand Duchy, whose Grand Duke was the Czar of Russia, until 1917 when Finland asserted its complete independence, December 6th.

The ancient Finnish language has persisted, and has survived all foreign dominations and oppressions, through the ages, for thousands of years of its mystical history.
The FINNS ON THE DELAWARE
A Chapter in American Colonial History

By John H. Vuorinen
Professor of History, Columbia University.

On a day in March in the year 1638 two ships carrying a flag bearing a warning message for American waters sailed up the Delaware River. The flag they flew was Swedish. They had left their home port probably in the early part of November, 1637. Their long journey had been delayed in Holland by the need to repair storm damaged vessels and to take on provisions. At the close of December they had set sail for the distant coast of North America. The ships belonged to the New Sweden Company and the expedition was under command of the Dutch, Peter Minuit, former governor of New Amsterdam, present-day New York.

This was the beginning, on American soil, of the venture that has come down in history as the New Sweden Colony, the first permanent white settlement in the Delaware River Valley. It was in the summer of this year, about two years later, that, in 1639—part of the lands covered by the proclamation, in that year of the William Penn Charter.

Shortly speaking, the expedition headed by Peter Minuit did not so much as establish a colony but a trading post, for neither of his two ships brought any settlers. Farmers, mechanics or other folk anxious to make homes and fortunes in the new land came only later. For the present, the human cargo of the ships consisted only of their crews, twenty-three soldiers and a handful of others, including Minuit's son.

The New Sweden Colony was destined to remain until 1655 under Swedish control for only seventeen years. It was restored to the Dutch in 1655. During this brief period, the history of the colony was largely the story of experiments inadequately prepared and often militarily absurd, not only by the hazards of nature but also by the inadequacy of human and material resources. As a military venture, therefore, New Sweden's story is represented in a sense only a local and modest one. New Sweden was never more than a settlement on the Delaware beyond the Schuylkill, the Delaware and the French reached the opportunity that the New World had held out to the Old since 1492 when Columbus sailed the seas.

During 1654-1655, eleven expeditions are all that went to New Sweden. The colonists came in 1644.

The available record, probably imperfect, indicates that thirty or forty settlers came in that year. The 1644 expedition appears to have led to the establishment, beyond Fort Christina, in 1645, of two settlements. One of them was named Filandia, located between present-day waarth and Chester, Pennsylvania. The other was Uppland, approximately where Chester is. Two years later, the first permanent settlements in what later became the state of Pennsylvania.

The population of the Settlements of New Sweden grew slowly and never reached impressive proportions. It appears to have been only a little over 500 in 1644; the estimates range from 100 to 200; and the number grew to 800 in 1645. After the Dutch took the colony from the Swedes in 1655, the population of Sweden and the State of Pennsylvania.

The first is the fact that Filandia had been, for several centuries before the 1640's, an integral part of Sweden, and the French who was the Swedes were subjects of the same Crown living under the same laws and institutions evolved over the generations.

The second has to do with an outstanding Swedish historian history's importance as "incorporating the most systematic and consistent enterprise within a society known during the sixteenth centuries." (R.L. Heckscher, "Foreign Expansion and Nationalism, 1600-1665.") The primary aim of the emigration was to provide a considerable number of Swiss to become the backbone of the new Swedish colony. The expedition began at the initiative of the government, and the aims of bringing new land under the flag. Amongst others, the 12,000-15,000 persons ultimately left their homes in Finland in search of new opportunities in the Swedish part of the kingdom, there to carve new settlements out of the wilderness, especially in west central Sweden.

By the 1640's, when the New Sweden Colony enterprise was launched, increasing internal conflicts and disruptions threatened the welfare of the forest lands which often characterized the Dutch's ways of clearing forest land for arable, were creating difficulties for the Finns. Something of the severity of the laws is suggested by the fact that an ordinance in 1644 provided the death penalty for second offenders and that first offenders be driven from their farms, and jail or the Reeve.

The result of these developments was that a number of the Finns, "migrant farmers" were either forced or forced to go to New Sweden. Most of them thought of the New Sweden settlements were, something like the half of the population of the place. Most of them thought of the area in 1644 provided the death penalty for second offenders and that first offenders be driven from their farms, and jail or the Reeve.

Although much has been written in recent years on the history of the New Sweden settlement, some of the aspects of it are clear and invoke more than passing attention. One of these relates to the fact that the Swedish tradition of rebellion was a factor in the settlement of New Sweden. The Swedes had been instructed in 1644 to send ships to New Sweden. The Swedes had been instructed in 1644 to send ships to New Sweden. The Swedes had been instructed in 1644 to send ships to New Sweden. The Swedes had been instructed in 1644 to send ships to New Sweden.

Another group of Finns which we have a record of some of the 1644, the year the English sailed the Dutch from the Delaware. In that year the Swedish Commission in Amsterdarm, Holland, reported to his superiors in Stockholm the arrival in Holland of 240 Finns who were on their way to the Delaware. The Finns in Stockholm, believing that the Finns had been instructed to leave their homes by agents employed by the Netherlands to recruit settlers for the New Sweden Colony, instructed the Finns to return to the colony. According to Justin Winsor's Narrative and Critical History of America (IV, 484) the statement was that the 12,000-15,000 persons ultimately left their homes in Finland in search of new opportunities in the Swedish part of the kingdom, there to carve new settlements out of the wilderness, especially in west central Sweden.

This historical essay, "Pioneer Finns and Swedes in the Delaware Valley, Before William Penn," is a brief, annotated summary of a larger work by the author. The work is a product of the Fielding, the eminent American poet and biographer, proudly asserted "Forest Finns" herediety.

The Swedish phase of the New Sweden Colony has been exceedingly well advanced into the significant chapter of Colonial History by the excellent Swedish American Historical Museum, and the notable historian Amandus Johnson. The knowledgeable Director, and Dean of Delaware Valley Historians has also included the impact of Finns, in a great measure, among the Delaware pioneers.

RACCOON AND PENNS NECK CHURCH REGISTER

Title page of the Raccoon and Penns Neck Church Register

Pages from the Raccoon and Penns Neck Church Register (Swedish Party)
Grateful acknowledgement for excerpts reproduced from the Journal, 1963, of The Finnish-American Delaware Monument Committee, Dr. R. Luomanen, Chairman

A Short Chronicle of the Delaware Monument

In 1957, the United States Government unanimously adopted a joint resolution inviting the Republic of Finland to participate in the Delaware Valley Centenary, and plans were developed rapidly both in the United States and in Finland. A general invitation, initiated by the Hon. Frank A. Heron, executive director of the Pennsylvania 350th Anniversary Commission to participate in the Pennsylvania festivities was followed by similar proposals from the Delaware and New Jersey State Commissions, the latter under the guidance of the Hon. Dr. Reston Corson, of Salem. The American-Finnish Delaware Tercentenary Committee, organized late in 1957, was headed by the Hon. O. J. Larsen of Duluth, Minnesota. Officers of this committee, other than the Hon. O. J. Larsen, were Prof. John H. Wooten, John Sartell, O. E. Gustafson, Prof. J. R. OR, R. Sulakanen and Emil Burja. Plans for participation of the American Flinns and the Americans of Finnish descent began to take shape. Most of the proposals for participation were a suggestion that a suitable memorial be erected at the site of “Finland” on the Delaware River, evidenced by a settlement of Finns in the seventeenth century American colony. Mr. Emil Burja was named to be Chairman of the Monument Committee.

The Finnish Government promptly and heartily acquiesced to the suggestion of a monument and agreed that a monument, suitably inscribed, would be furnished to the American Committee by the people of Finland. This monument would be erected on a suitable base provided by the American-Finnish Committee, and the completed memorial therefore would present the joint contribution of the Finns in Finland and the Finns in America, and these of Finnish descent to the memory of the first settlers of Finnish blood on the North American Continent.

The officials of the city of Chester, Pennsylvania, with very friendly cooperation, provided a site in the high area of Center Park, facing on Concord Avenue. Mayor William Jr., assumed the sponsorship of the city’s cooperative efforts with a high degree of interest and sympathy rarely encountered in any civic venture of this type. The work of planning and designing the foundation and approaches to the monument at Center Park, Chester, Pa., was entrusted to Mr. Charles H. Bicker, a well known engineer of Chester. As a Vice President of the Delware County Historical Society, Mr. Bicker has made an intensive study of land titles in the area between Chester Creek and Mariner Hook, which he has indicated comprised the territory known as Finland, with the cluster of farm houses probably centering about what is today South Chester, north of Chester Creek.

From Finland came word that Valio Aaltonen, one of the foremost Finnish sculptors whose work is well known in the galleries of the world, was commissioned to complete the monument. One face of bronze colored rock granite black was to depict, in relief, the establishment of a pioneer family to America; the other face of the monument was to show the family in America. The center of the monument was to contain the inscription which is recorded at the end of this article.

The American-Finnish Committee supported by contributions of funds from all parts of the United States arranged to purchase the base from the Rock of Ages quarry in Barre, Vermont, the Vermont granite being a fine grained, light gray stone. The lot on the base was finished in Quincy, Massachusetts under the direction of the National Granite and Polish Company at the plant of Henry C. Smalley. The plinth, or sub-base was quarried at Rutland, Vermont granite being a fine grained, light gray stone. The main piece is of the famed Barre granite, burned in color, taken from the same quarry which produced the granite for Napoleon’s tomb in Paris.

The main piece of the monument left Finland on May 24th, 1958 on board the liner Scenic, after a virtual race against time on the part of Sculptor Viivi Altonen. The monument landed in Wilmington, Delaware on June 15th and was finally lowered into place on June 20th, only eight days before its dedication. The dedication ceremonies were held at 2:15 P.M. on June 20th, under the direction of Mr. Alfred Erickson of Quincy, Chairman of the Massachusetts Delaware Tercentenary Committee.

Four granite slabs were made available to the 1958 committee. Two come from Minnesota’s quarries; one for Minnesota, the other for Michigan, the two states with the largest Finnish population. The other two came from the banks of the Finnish granite culture in Massachusetts; one for Massachusetts and the other for the State of Washington. New York State furnished a flagpole for the monument square located at the corner of Concord Avenue and Finline Drive.

At the suggestion of Consul Herbert A. Caesevine, of Philadelphia, a “component” ceremony was arranged after the foundation had been completed and the fifteen ton base was ready to be rolled into place. A copper box containing numerous documents, books, letters, and a variety of memorabilia was laid, with fitting ceremony, into the recessed foundation. Among the documents preserved for future generations were copies of all available books dealing with the Delaware settlement, a signed copy of Congressman Frank Hocking’s address on the Finnish Tercentenary written before the United States Congress, an original leaf from the first Bible printed in Finnish language, bearing the date of 1656 and presented by Emil Horias, and pictures of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, President Kyriss Kallio, the entire American-Finnish Tercentenary Committee and its Chairman, the Hon. O. J. Larsen.

The actual unveiling and dedication ceremonies were held on Wednesday, May 30th, 1958, just twenty-five years to the day before the celebration of 1935. Miss Jane Elizabeth Harvey, then of Columbia, Pa., a niece of Mayor Ward, and a descendant of the early Finnish settlers in the area of present day Chester, sponsored the unveiling of the monument. The official presentation was made by Dr. Rudolf W. Holitz, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Finland and acolytes were made by Mayor Ward for the City of Chester; Governor George E. Earle for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the Honorable Robert R. Jackson, Solicitor General of the United States, as the personal emissary of President Roosevelt.

Some twenty years later, the monument had to be moved a short distance from its original location, only a few hundred feet, to make room for the new superhighway cutting through Center Park, and with fitting ceremony the monument was rededicated to the memory of the pioneering Finns in the summer of 1978.

Inscription on the Delaware Monument

KALEVILLAUKOUPURIN TAYS AALTIOJEN AJAAVAT TAYTA MAATTAA MARTAMAN RANTOJA KANENNATSAAN
TKUUOLFIKAAKIAJAA PIHAAHINTAAT FINFIHAA PIHII UDENT
SAHILA PARGOEN OLI FINLAND MINNEN

UUDMURAT
TYYNN ANSTARKS JENHANNIN SOKOJRAIHEEN
SYDNEYSAATTA JUKIFS JUKIFRIISET

TYNNEN SOKOJRAIHEEN JYNNHEHEEN
SYDRENF SOKOJRAIHEEN JYNNHEHEEN
SEITUULLAIN SYDRENF SOKOJRAIHEEN

TANNAVAPAA POCRIOUK TANNAVAPAA

Sons of Kala sailing
Passed an ocean's western reaches
To seek their strength applying
On this shore a home established
Tillied their crops to row and garner
Roved their dwellings from the forest

Near this spot stood a settlement named Finland as it was called by the first Finnish settlers on this continent in remembrance of their homeland.

This memorial erected in 1958 by the Finnish nation and the Finns in America in commemoration of the Finnish pioneers of the first permanent settlement in the Delaware River Valley.
However, it is of paramount importance and most desirable, that the Fin-
nophile "Chapter in Colonial History" be continued by American-Finnish
Historical Society, Finlandia Foundation, Finlandia Masonic Club, Central
Committee of Finnish Organizations of Greater New York, The Finnish
American Delaware Monument Committee, as well as other nationwide
Finnish organizations, loyal Finnophiles, Swede-Finns, and our American
friends of Finland; to revive the tremendous historical Tercentenary Cele-
britation Of The New Sweden Colony in 1938, wherein the impact of "Pio-
near Delaware Finns" was celebrated in majestic grandeur and sponsored
by the official Governments and citizens of the United States and Finland; as
well as Sweden.

The Delaware Monument by Waino Aaltosen was presented as a gift
from the people of Finland as a memorial symbol commemorating pioneer
Finns in the Delaware Valley, from Finnmarken and Finland. All influence
should be coordinated so that the gigantic efforts of all concerned with the
1938 Tercentenary Celebration shall not have been in vain, especially re-
garding the perpetuity, maintenance and custodial coordination pertain-
ing to the invaluable monument, as well as other historical markers. How-
ever, we may be grateful to Mr. Leroy S. Holmes, Director of Parks and
Public Property, and the other Administrative Officials of Chester, Pa., for
their fine custody in connection with the Delaware Finnish Monument at
Crozier Park, Chester, Pa.

Dr. John M. Leekala of Cleveland, Ohio, has probably been the most en-
thusiastic American Finnophile devoted to the historical significance of the
Finnish Delaware Monument in American history. Since 1938 he inces-
santly has visited at Crozier Park, and has been in regular contact with ad-
ministrators of Chester, Pa., in mutual amicable discussions pertaining to
custodianship problems, such as flying the American and Finnish Flags, historical markers, and general preservation of the invaluable
Finnish Delaware Monument. In view of the Bicentennial Celebrations in
1776, Dr. Leekala has surmised that we might find it expedient now, to
evaluate sincerely regarding perpetual preservation of the monument as
the symbol of the Pioneer Delaware Finns in American history, for future
generations.

This historical chapter of Delaware Valley Colonial History will also be in-
cluded chronologically, with those of other pioneer settlers from Europe, in
my forthcoming separate historical essay on Masonry. — "Chronology of
Hiram, Through the Ages", — pertinent to the "Founding of America, Un-
der God." It presents the "Impact of Fraternal Brotherhood in the Revolu-
tionary War", as an introductory chapter. — in a paperback edition.

To all who have cooperated for publication of this resume, please accept
my sincerest acknowledgements.

Emil Lincoln Ostman

Early Finnish Settlers of Delaware Valley

By EMIL LINCOLN OSTMAN, Lyndhurst, N. J.

Students of early American history are generally but slight-
ly familiar with the colony of New Sweden in the Delaware
River Valley, settled by Finns and Swedes (1638), many years
before the English settlers un-
der William Penn came over. The present nation of Finland
was then a part of the Kingdom
of Sweden, therefore the colony
was named New Sweden. Peter
Minuit, the Prussian-born Colo-
nial Governor of New Nether-
lands (earlier, in 1609) pur-
chased Manhattan Island from
the Indians with twenty-four
dollars worth of trinkets, and
built Ft. Amsterdam. He was
recalled by the Dutch in 1631,
but he returned in 1638 to settle
New Sweden in the Delaware
Valley.

All of Europe was embroiled
in The Thirty Year War, includ-
ing Sweden which was a major
military monarchy of Europe at
that time. It was totally involved
in military operations from
Russia to Denmark, throughout
the entire Northern Europe, pitted against the Holy Roman
Empire; aligned with the French
Huguenots in Western Europe.
Before the Northern Crusader
for Lutheranism died in the
Battle of Lützen in 1632, King
Gustavus Adolphus had already
planned with his State Chan-
cellor Axel Oxenstierna, the
Dutchman William Uselinx and
Admiral Klaus Laurinsson Flem-
ing of Finland's nobility to es-

tablish the New Sweden Colony in America. Expeditions started
by Peter Minuit proceeded to
America with pioneer Swedes
and Finns to colonize and settle
among the Indians in the Dela-
ware River Valley (now Dela-
ware, southern Pennsylvania,
and southern New Jersey).

To clarify early American his-
tory, which surely can use sup-
plementation to existing printed
records, let us introduce Admiral
Klaus L. Fleming, Finnish-born
nobleman, born to feudal rights and
government, in the kingdom of
Sweden-Finland; Director and
Administrator of the New Swe-
den colony, who associated with
Peter Minuit, built and estab-
lished Fort Christina (Wilm-
ton), March 29, 1638, followed
by "Finland" and "Upland" (further north) settlements. Another significant name in
early American history is Gov-
ernor Johannes Printz, an offi-
cer of Finnish Cavalry, in the
Thirty Years War.

Lost in a hurricane, Pete...
Minuit died in the West Indies.

Peter Minuit in 1638 directed the initial exploration for the Swedish West India Company, establishing the New Sweden Colony. Named by Dutch seamen, the ships "Kalmar Nyckel" and "Fogel Grip" arrived in the spring of 1638 with 26 men: administrators, soldiers, and the few settlers were mostly Swedes and a few timbermen Finns, embarking on the western bank of the Delaware (now Wilmington). Ft. Christina was soon built as a stockaded settlement, complete with a Lutheran Church, trading and administration facilities, log cabins for the Swedish settlers, and protection from attacks by unfriendly Indians. Under Peter Hollander Ridder a second expedition followed with many sturdy Finnish woodsmen, to satisfy the Swedish sovereignty in servitude as punishment for petty political and military insubordination. These Finnish pioneers also went to the settlements of Ft. Christina. Finns preferred to settle as pioneers inland, away from stockades.

However, as individual freedom was most desirable and possible in the New World for these rugged Finns, some of whom even came shackled for petty misdemeanors, they soon absconded to the remoter regions away from the stockades, to build their own log-cabins, "sauna," develop farmland and live in peace and friendliness, even without fear of Indians.

The third expedition settled "Finland" (South of Chester), and "Upland" (slightly northward). Almost immediately after these early settlements were established by the Swedes and Finns on the western bank, small groups of farmers and individuals sought farmland and log-cabin sites on the eastern bank, in what is now So. Jersey. Some of these early settlements have retained their historical identity, namely: Raccoon Creek (now Swedesboro), Mullica Hill, Finns Point at the crossing, and further south Ft. Elfsborg is now Salem, N. J.

Admiral Klaus Laurinsson Fleming was scion of an old family of nobility in Finland, distinguished by knighthood and responsibilities of state ever since early in the fifteenth century. It was fortunate for the New Sweden colony that the valuable early guidance and administration of the settlement was in the hands of Peter Minuit, Gov. Peter Ridder and the amiable Admiral Fleming, until his designation to become Chief of Admiralty in a war against Denmark. The great Finnish admiral was killed in battle, July 26, 1644. The work of these great men is unquestionably recorded in archives of American Colonial History, as founders of the first white settlement in New Sweden.

When Admiral Fleming was advanced to Chief of the Swedish Admiralty, Johan Printz the colloquial officer of the Finnish Cavalry was designated to be Governor of the New Sweden Colony. Governor Johan Printz arrived February 15, 1643 and assembled his retinue of 90-100 Swedes and Finns to build Fort Elfsborg (now Salem, N. J.) to control shipping north on the Delaware. He also built Printzhof, a two-story mansion befitting his immense size and dignity, demonstrative of his vast power.

Tercentenary Medal by Alpo Saile, issued in 1938

In mid-March 1638, Peter Minuit landed with the 1st Expedition of Swedes and Finns, at the present site of Wilmington, Del. and built Ft. Christina, for the Swedish West India Company, which established the New Sweden Colony. Admiral Klaus L. Fleming of Finland's nobility was a principal Director, promoting the settlement of the Delaware Valley by the Swedes and especially by Finns.
Printzhof was the most lavishly furnished mansion in America, between Virginia and the Manhattan Island. Johan Printz realized the importance of satisfying the native Lenape Indian schemas and impressing them not only with his own gigantic and pompous appearance, but also with the gallant decorum and friendliness which the environment of Printzhof offered.

The Lenape Delaware family of Algonquin Indians were by their own complacent nature unwavering, and were not difficult to get along with. Lenape Indians were in a cycle of subjugation to the famous Five Indian Nations. It was quite fortunate for the New Sweden colony as well as for William Penn, who came much later, that the Lenapes were in a complacent, friendly unwavering period of subjugation, which lasted until the beginning of the Revolutionary War. Many Finns served as interpreters in Indian language.

The first permanent Protestant log-churches built were the Lutheran Church established at Fort Christina (Wilmington), and at Ft. Gothenburg, Printzhof.

Inasmuch as Finns are concerned in American history, very little is generally acknowledged regarding their ancient traditions and heritage with which they have enriched our American Way of life. The average American's understanding regarding Finland and Finns is; that they paid their war obligations, Paavo Nurmi was a great "Flying Finn" runner, Eliel and Eero Saarinen were outstanding architects, Jean Sibelius was a great composer, and a few more greats who have aroused or stimulated some excellent public relations for Finland.

How many are familiar with "Kalevala" the Finnish national epic which Longfellow used as a pattern of meter or rhythm for his "Hiawatha"? And, most of you will be agape to hear that the runes of the heroic epic "Kalevala" antedate Homer, and even the psalms of Biblical David. So ancient is their heritage, that recorded history can not positively trace the origin of the Finnish people, which is one of the oldest nationality groups in existence. Finns have tenaciously survived through the ages; have retained their ancient traditions; the language of "Suomi" has persisted as of old, even although Finns have almost incessantly been pawns in the "spoil of wars," and Finland has been repeatedly overrun as a buffer country and the battleground for warring aggressors. Centuries ago the Finns traveled as a nomadic people, in preference to living in populated communities; so we can understand their eagerness to settle in America as pioneers in a free country during the early 17th century to which they introduced the Finnish sauna (hot-stone-bath), the log-cabin and the wood-rail-fence and most of all the know-how of associating with the native Indians, with friendliness. Finns made fine soldiers and many eagerly served in the military, under King Gustavus Adolphus during the Thirty Years War.

Most of the Swedes settled in Delaware and a few in Pennsylvania, and some in South Jersey. Finns settled more so in the farming communities generally spread out eastward in present Salem and Gloucester Counties of South Jersey; and on the western bank of the Delaware River, Finns mostly settled at Finland, extending from the present Marcus Hook through Chester Creek, and in Upland which is northward to Philadelphia. Farming areas insinuated on the shores of the present Chester, Crum, Cobb, Darby, Schuylkill Rivers or Creeks were coveted home sites for the pioneer Swedes and Finns. Historians generally acknowledge that half of the settlers were Finns.
The foregoing introduction establishes the authenticity of preliminaries relating to the first white settlers on both banks of the Delaware, an area comprising of the present northern part of the State of Delaware, southeastern Pennsylvania including suburbs of Philadelphia; and correspondingly in the eastern valley of South Jersey to the Mullica River, named after the pioneer Finn Erik Mullikka (Mullida). It may be well reasoned that the Finns preferred the environment of the lowlands and the isolated regions of the Indians with whom they became friendly, and gained their confidence and trust. Finns were accustomed to developing such terrain in native homeland, Finland (Fenland) the land of ten thousand lakes. Neither were they dispirited by the Jersey mosquitoes, which were tame as compared with the pests back home in Northern Finland and Lapland. Also, we can understand that for many Finns in the military, excepting professionals and some adventurers, the military desires were fairly well satisfied with the victorious battles in the East against their hereditary enemy, the Russians. Some Finns therefore reneged involuntary servitude, for the glory of Sweden, and were condemned to forced labor in the New Sweden colony. The first sailings were mostly of military or as political prisoners and for petty crimes as forest burn-

beaters, but after the first few expeditions there were plenty of eager pioneering Finns seeking the opportunity of settling in America. Many Finnish refugees traveled via northern Norway, then southward, hoping to reach Holland, and then to America.

One group of 140 Finns reached Holland via Norway, but there is no actual record of their arrival in America, believed to have landed in New Amsterdam. Because of piracy and general uncertainty of sea travel during mid-seventeenth century wars, unless sailing with naval personnel protected ships, some sailings met with serious disaster on the high seas. In 1649, 70 Finns were shipwrecked off the coast of Puerto Rico, imprisoned by Spanish, freed but were then captured at St. Croix by the French, imprisoned and sold into slavery. Another group of about 100 Swedes and 250 Finns were attacked off the Canary Islands by three Turkish ships, 1854.

There was a terrific battle, and although the Turks were subdued and forced to sail away, the Delaware expedition was delayed four months, and left with many sick and wounded. They ran short of rations and medicine, but eventually arrived in America with only half of the original emigres surviving the voyage.

In South Jersey the first permanent Lutheran church was the Trinity Church at the Finnish settlement on Raccoon Creek (Swedesboro) not far from Finns Point; the second log-church was the 24-foot square St. George Lutheran Church erected by Swedes and Finns at present Churchtown, (St. George Episcopal Parish) at the intersection of Salem-Penns Grove Highway and the Church-Landing Rd.

“Jumalan Sana” or “Word of God” was probably the most potent contribution of the Finns (and Swedes) into America; thereby introducing a code of ethics, justice, and freedom of religion. Finns (and Swedes) founded the first Protestant (Lutheran) churches in America; and Finns served as Judges of the Commissioners (Commissioners) during early occupation by the Dutch, as well as for English administrators, on both sides of the Delaware.

An old English map shows that “SAUNA,” (built by the Finnish pioneer “Kantele entertainer Luukas), was a homestead located on the Schuylkill River, now Philadelphia.

Impact of the ancient heritage of Finns into “American Way of Life” may be expressed with a few dynamic words: siivu, sauna, Sauna and survival. Siivu and sauna are explained in Webster’s Dictionary. Siivu means tenacity, “guts” and determination. Sauna is the ancient heated-stones bathhouse, which the pioneer Finns built of notched-end interlocking logs. They generally lived in the sauna cabin while building their other log cabin “tupa”, or living quarters.
Whatever ships sailed toward the Delaware colony were intercepted on the Atlantic by unfriendly naval powers, leaving the New Sweden colony stranded without communication or trade. By 1663, Stuyvesant had already neutralized the fortifications of Ft. Elfsborg, by capturing and rebuilding Ft. Kasimir (now Newcastle). In the meantime the Finnish and Swedish settlers were expanding their activities in the hinterland, developing farming, and promoting communities with churches, schools, crafts industry, boating, and in general establishing themselves to becoming an integral part of the “American Way of Life,” which many of their descendants struggled for in the Revolutionary War, and even signed the Declaration of Independence.

However, the dejected Gov. Printz prepared to go back home.

In the old country Johan Printz established residence in Finland as a Finnish officer of cavalry, but as a soldier he was adamant in his loyalty to his mother country. His Finnish log “sauna” (bastu) most assuredly was a busy “socializer” as well as useful center for business, with pleasure, serving as a soothing elixir for comfort after battling with irritating swarms of stinging mosquitoes.

These saunas with heated stones, were introduced into America more than 300 years ago, and have recently become very popular adjuncts to our homes, in every walk of life. President Kennedy had a sauna available at his home, as well as among friends and relatives. Sauna idea for hot-stones bathing was known and used by Navajo Indians before recorded history. Today the sauna bath has become so popular that almost every celebrity has one.

Governor Johan Printz was a Lutheran, an able ruler, but he became an absolute despot, and incurred the dislike of the English as well as the Dutch who came into his domain. He gave them the choice of allegiance to New Sweden, or get out. It was very well for him to give orders from his secured Printzhof, but Governor Peter Stuyvesant of New Netherlands was on the warpath, planning to add the New Sweden Colony to the Dutch Company possessions. In 1647, Governor Stuyvesant systematically proceeded to apply pressure on the despotic Johan Printz. There seemed to be an open war on the high seas and it was the survival of the fittest.

Sweden never had sufficient naval ships with which to support the facilities required by the New Sweden colony. Military Sweden’s European campaigns depleted any possible aid which was urgently needed in America.

Even as the Dutch Governor made it extremely hot for Gov. Printz and colony of New Sweden, he preferred the heat of his sauna, for succor to his wearied, gigantic hulk and in the consolation of his most intimate friends. In 1653, he invited the Delaware Indian sachems for a farewell party, to assure them that he would return with plenty of merchandise and more men. He left his office at Printzhof and administration over to Johan Papegoja, his son-in-law, assuring the colonists that he would return, or send supplies. With his wife and four daughters, he traversed overland to New Amsterdam, now New York, from whence they sailed for home in October, 1653. History will not accredit him with glowing praises for his contribution toward the establishment of New Sweden, to which he did not return. On the contrary however he will be recorded as a despot, with harsh, tyrannical personality. Fate has determined he was a better soldier than a nobleman.

Loss of Admiral Klaus Flemming was a severe loss as Director of the New Sweden Colony. His responsibilities of administration were taken over greatly by Pehr Brahe, the well-liked Governor-General of Finland. After “Big Belly” Printz, Johan Rising served as the last Governor of the New Sweden Colony (1654-1655).
New Sweden was completely taken over by the Dutch in 1656, after the last, 12th expedition had arrived on the "Mercurius," with 92 Finns and 13 Swedes aboard.

It has been recorded that the "Mercurius" sailed up the Delaware and landed goods at Matinekonk Island (Burlington Island); and in 1655 the geographer Peter Lindeström reported settlers on Burlington Island (New Jersey).

What's in a name? It is difficult to determine the lineage of people from their names. Although many Finns retained their family status as in the ancient Finnish language of "Suomi," but invariably surnames were changed or translated into Swedish, when Finland was allied with Sweden, for about 600 years. Most often the identity of family lineage becomes difficult to trace if a common surname has been adopted as "Son of John" or Johnson, Jhonsson, Jansson, Janson or other variations of the original "Jussinpolka." Likewise, you find similar variations from other names as "Son of Johannes", changed to: Johannesson, Hanssson, Hanson, Hanes, etc. However, we do have church records which are reliable data for authentic purposes. Historians have examined Lutheran Church archives in Sweden, Finland, in Delaware, Pennsylvania, and especially in Southern New Jersey, and are still continuing with research pertaining to the Delaware colony of Swedes and Finns, settled in 1638, taken by the Dutch in 1656, transferred to the British in 1664, and granted to William Penn 1678--1682, when most of the landowners were of Finnish origin.

William Penn landed in Pennsylvania at the mouth of Chester Creek on October 28, 1682, from the ship "Welcome." He named the settlement as Chester. He respected the land ownership rights of the Swedes and Finns, and made every effort to verify old claims and to establish sound titles. Mme Armegot Papegoja, daughter of Gov. Printz negotiated some disputed land holdings satisfactorily with Wm. Penn, Johan Kyn (Klein), Printz's bodyguard was known as the largest land owner of the area. Peter Rambo, considered as the first Finnish settler of record, with families of American born children, were significant landowners on both sides of the Delaware.

Some of the early Finnish settlers picked at random from early records, were: Israel Helme (Helma), Erick Mullikka (Mullica), Olli Tossava, Peter Kokkinen (Cocks), Swenson family, and Leena Morten who's cow "Muurikki" was
brought over from the old country. John Morton, signer of the Declaration of Independence was descendent from the Morten family of Finnish settlers. He is buried in Chester, Pa.

The Great Treaty of Peace was made by William Penn with the Indians led by Sashem Tammany at Shackamaxon (Kennington), an area north of Philadelphia (1,500 acres settled by six Finnish families). Captain Lasse Kock (Cocks) served as interpreter and commissioner for this great honorable event under the “Treaty Elm Tree” of his own home, June 23rd, 1683.

Independence Hall was erected on the site of land owned by Swenson, family of Finnish settlers in Philadelphia.

Nearby, Wicaco Gloria Del Church was built by the Finns (and Swedes) 1675.

While Philadelphia was being built, Chester was the center of bustle and growth in the New World. From there, many of the settlers spread out to other parts of Pennsylvania, and from these early pioneers descended many of those who fought in the War of Independence and helped to set up the United States of America as a free nation. We wonder whether the Daughters of the American Revolution are apprised that about one out of eighteen of all blue-blood society or American colonials, at the time of the Revolution, had Finnish blood flowing in their veins; that is, as related to intermarriage emanating from Delaware Valley settlers.

Crane Hook on the Delaware,” by Jeannette Eckman, refers to pioneer Finns and the church in the Christina River regions.

Many Finns transferred lands to the English and moved across the river to settle in New Jersey.

As the time passed on with the advance of new generations of American born, and intermarriages after the influx of English settlers, both of the early Lutheran churches became Episcopal parishes. St. George Episcopal Parish retained the original name as well as preserved the church records, graves of Finnish pioneers, land records, births, marriages, etc.

Several volumes have been recorded regarding the pioneer Swedes and Finns. The earlier writer seems to have been Campanius Holm, grandson of a Lutheran pastor sent over to the New Sweden Colony. Referring to the settlement of Finland (Chester, Pa.) in an illustrated Swedish language description printed in Sweden in 1702, he states: “. . . Finland, where Finns live, in strong houses well built, without fortifications . . . ” Strong houses are the log-cabins which were introduced into America by Finnish settlers, in farming regions away from stockaded settlements.

In 1748, the University of Turku, Finland sent the famous naturalist Peter Kalm to study botany in the New World. He also delved into research of early American historical records, and served as minister at St. George (Lutheran) Church in South Jersey for about a year.

Professor John Wuorinen confirms in “The Finns on the Delaware” 1638-1655, Columbia University Press, New York, 1939, that: “Historian Amandus Johnson mentions names of the following as belonging to Finnish settlers: Eskil Larson, Clemet Joranson, Jons Pafveleson, Bertel Ekelson, Clemet Anders, Johan Man, Clemet Mickelson, Hendrick Lasse, Evert Hirdrickson, Hans Jurensson, Hinrick Matzon, Matts Hansson, Knaut Martenson, Karl Janson, Johan Fransson. Thus it is not easy to distinguish by referring to names alone, between Swedes and Finns.”

Prof. John H. Wuorinen is generally acknowledged as an outstanding authority on history of the Finns on the Delaware. He served as Executive Secretary of the American Finnish Delaware Tercentenary Committee, in 1938. 
In 1957 after many years of research and study in anthropology and genealogy, Saul C. Olin released his book “Finlandia”, published by The Book Concern, Hancock, Mich. It is a book crammed with factual European anthropological information, written so a layman can understand it. This book is an abridged history of the Finnish people; their language, early background, who they are, and where they came from. It is a searching work that deeply questions man’s understanding of his ancestors, their origin, their speech, and their racial antecedents.

“Finlandia” is a book that any man or woman, whose ancestors came from any part of Europe, will enjoy reading. Saul Olin tells the story, also, of the Finnish strain in the United States and Canada, from colonial times to the present. He also includes a concise summary of the book “Delaware Finns”, by Evert Alexander Louhi (1925, Humanity Press, N. Y.).

Saul Olin has done considerable research regarding early American history. His well written book “Finlandia” contains the most comprehensive study, or written historical resume in short form, of pioneer Delaware Finns and their descendants in colonial history; and it is highly recommended as concise, authentic, timely reading.

At the turn of this century, Akseli Rauanheimo, scion of the old Finnish aristocratic Järnefelt family, and later Consul- General of Finland in America, was devoted to matters pertaining to colonization of Finns in America; and initiated founding of the American Finnish Historical Society.

Rev. Sal. Imonen, as well as Akseli Rauanheimo (Järnefelt), and others, have effected considerable genealogical research of church records in Finland and Sweden, pertaining to family trees and authentic origin of the early American Finnish pioneers. Delaware Valley Finns were known to have had sizable families, and generally had no scruples in intermarriage with Swedes, Dutch, Germans and English. Therefore, it is conceivable that Finnish family surnames were subjected to numerous linguistic changes, and especially to conform to the English language, in their process of Americanization.

More than 300 years old, it is about one-quarter mile outside of Repaupo on the Paulsboro-Repaupo road. It was erected in the seventeenth century.

AX MARKS OF 1655

... plainly seen on upper beams. Entire log house shows superior carpentry craftsmanship with ax, adz and saw.

OLDEST LOG HOUSE
... still standing in U. S. near Delaware River.

DOVETAIL CORNER LOGS

... and original clay mortar between wall logs. Built without nails, the log house is still in good state of preservation. Typical 17th century Finnish architecture.
Chronological Resume of Early American Settlers

From Suomi (Finland-Sweden) to Finmarken (Värmland, Angermanland, Götaland, Hesingland, Östergötland, Westmanland, Göthaland, Upland, Medelpad, Dalarna, etc.), and thence from 1638—Finns (and Swedes) settled as pioneers in the Delaware Valley (New Sweden Colony).

1580 Homesteaders are induced to emigrate from Suomi (Sweden-Finland) to pioneer and settle in the wilderness and woodlands of Sweden.

1592 Admiral Klaus Laurinsson Fleming, Finnish nobleman, was Director of New Sweden Company (Delaware colony), was born in Louhisaari, Finland Sweden.

1609 Henry Hudson discovers South River (Delaware).

1610 South River named Delaware River (de la Ware) by English.

1617 Sweden-Finland Rikstag established equal eligibility of Swedes and Finns as citizens.

1623 Fort Nassau erected by Dutch (Capt. Mey), 4 couples, 8 sailors, as trading post at Timber Creek; but are harassed by Indians.

1624 King Gustavus Adolphus of Kingdom of Sweden-Finland grants charter to Hollander Wm. Usselinx, to expand Swedish trade. Västmanland Finn discovers Ljusnaberg Copper Mine.

1630 Ljusnaberg Copper Mine community developed by Finnish mining pioneers, from a wilderness to become a progressive community with roads, churches, and numerous established homesteads.

The good-will era of Finmarken colonization (1580-1630) comes to an end; and the Swedish authorities in Värmland, Östergötland and throughout the other Finnish populated Sweden's Finmarken settlements, began persecution of Finns.

1631 Peter Minuit is recalled as Governor of New Netherlands.

1632 Col. Johan Hanson (Värmland), (great-grandfather of John Hanson colonial patriot Pres. of U.S. Continental Congress), died in the Battle of Lutzen Nov. 17th in The Thirty Years War. (Col. Hanson's 4 sons came to America with Gov. Johan Printz.)

King Gustav Adolphus killed in the Battle of Lutzen; six-year-old Queen Christina regency headed by chancellor Axel Oxenstierna. Pt. Nassau deserted by Dutch, because of Indian hostility.

1634 Thomas Young attempts to settle English claim to Delaware Valley.
Peter Minuit (outsold by Dutch West India Co.) plans with Blommeart to organize Dutch-Swedish Co. to trade under Swedish flag.

Dutch rebuild Ft. Nassau as a stronger trading post.

Persecution in Värmland and other Finnmarken settlements of Finns grows vigorously, and Finns get severe punishment and lose homes. Peter Minuit presented “New Sweden Colony idea” to Blommeart, Fleming, Spriring and Oxenstierna (forming the New Sweden Company).

New Sweden Company to colonize in America, was established, with The Finnish Adm. Klaus Fleming as General-Director, and Peter Minuit as Governor in the New Sweden Colony in America.

Colonizers to America were urgently needed, so as a ruse to oust the Finns from their homes in Sweden, the authorities jailed Finns for petty offences, and offered the choice of pioneering in America or jail, or even death. Peter Minuit by experience considered the rugged Finns an ideal settlers and builders of his New Sweden Colony, and welcomed Finnish pioneers to America. It may well be assumed that some Finns also sailed with Minuit as seamen with the first expedition, because Finns did sail in Dutch service. Sweden-Finland was lacking in ocean-going trade.

“Kalmar Nykel” and “Fogel Grip” sailed from Gothenburg, Sweden, with 26 men, under direction of Governor Peter Minuit.

The first expedition stopped at Paradise Point, midway up the Delaware, and continued upward to land at Minquas Kill, about two miles inland from the Delaware River (now Wilmington). Fort Christina was built as a stockaded trading post. Minuit bought land from Indians, from Bentens Point to Schuykill Div.

Peter Minuit was drowned in a West Indies hurricane.

Persecution of Finnish settlers in Finnmarken communities is intensified, especially for crimes against the Crown, such as “burning”.

Burning Finns are jailed, and rounded up for shipment to America. Not many Swedes are willing to go to the New Sweden Colony. However, many Finns are eager to settle in America in preference to jail and persecution in Sweden-Finland. Also soldiers who reneged continued military service in foreign lands for the glory of the Crown, were jailed as deserters and induced to sail to New Sweden, even with their families, in exchange for severe punishment.

Peter Gunnarson Rambo, first Finnish (freeman) settler, sails as seaman with the second expedition.

Second expedition directed by Governor Peter Hollander Ridder arrived at Delaware April 17th.

Ridder buys additional west bank territory, and land from Cape May to Raccoon Creek to the Jersey side, from the Indians.

Some Dutch colonists arrive to settle under Gov. Ridder (jurisdiction).

First Lutheran church in America established at Ft. Christina (now Wilmington, Del.). Rev. Roerus Torkillus as first preacher.

Notable forbears of colonial families of Finnish origin: Marten Martensson (Marttinen) kin of John Morton, last signer Declaration of Independence; Matts Hanson; Israel Holme; Evert Hendrickson; Clement and Mans Joranssen; Peter Larsson Kock (Kekkinen); Hendrick Mattssen; Mans Mannson; John Sprint; Olle Tossava (Torsen) arrived from Gothenberg on the "Charitas" November 17th, 4th expedn.

English (Puritans) enroaching on territory bought by Ridder from Indians in Jersey at Varkens Kill. Finns get along with Indians and begin settling away from stockades, in South Jersey (Finns Pt.)

Colonel Johan Printz of Finnish Cavalry commissioned Governor of the New Sweden Colony as the first citizen of Sweden-Finland to rule.

English settlers enroaching at Schuykill ousted, and jailed.

February 15th, Gov. “Big Betty” Johan Printz arrives with the new ships “Fama” and “Swan”, well soldered and loaded with Finns, mostly recruited from jails as deserters, “burnbeaters”, etc., as well as some freemen, to build America (“Delaware” by Wilde).

Printz builds Ft Elfsborg, stockaded settlement with log cabins; the first Lutheran church established in New Jersey, built of logs.

English at Varkens Kill (Finns River) swear oath of allegiance to Sweden; English encroacher Lambertson of the Varkens Kill English settlers ordered by court to get out of Delaware Valley.

Fort Gothenberg, Tinicum Island is built complete with log-cabins, trading-center, Lutheran church (Rev. Israel Fluvander, Pastor), administration headquarters of New Sweden Colony; Printzhof is built as “Big Betty” Printz’ baronial mansion.

Disgruntled Finns abscond to remote regions, friendly with Indians; Finnish settlements of Upland and Finland growing.

Shipbuildings started on the Delaware.

Fire destroys buildings on Tinicum Island but is immediately rebuilt; Printzhof is rebuilt as the finest mansion in America.

All colonists (incl. Dutch and English) under authority of Gov. Printz.

Blockhouses Mülindal and Vasa at Schuykill R.; soldiered by Rambo, Kock, and Martinsson (son of John Morton).

Fort Korsholm built on Schuykill River.

Long awaited “Gyllene Hiel” arrives with needed supplies.

Eighty expedition “Swan” includes Rev. Laurentius Lokenius (Locks), Finnish preacher who was active in four churches and traveling minister at all Finnish settlements and farming centers, on both sides of the Delaware Valley, for forty years.

Printz buys territory between Raccoon and Mantua Creeks, in Jersey.
"Kattan" sailed July from Gothenberg via the Caribbean islands; grounded, it was an unfortunate voyage first to be shipwrecked 13 miles off shore; women and children brought to the island (about 80 miles from Porto Rico), before the storm and the ship became disabled; Spaniards looted the prized cargo, and money and valuables of the victims who were brought to Porto Rico, about September 3rd, in bondage; women were especially mistreated and manhandled. About May 1650, two dozen survivors somehow gained to sail away, but were captured by the French and were brought to Santa Cruz island, again to suffer brutality. Of this ill-fated expedition, about fifty men, women and children mostly Finns, lost their lives, and about twenty voyagers somehow eventually were lucky to return to Europe, to relate the terrible ordeal encountered.

Feud between "Big Bella" Printz and "Peggly" intensifies as the Dutch build Ft. Beverwreede on the Schuykill; in the war of nerves "oppleg" abandons the Fort B.

Without receiving aid from Sweden-Finland, meager military strength of Gov. Printz was unable to cope with the superior Dutch forces. Swedish status weakened by prolonged warring in Europe.

Peter Stuyvesant, Director General of New Netherlands proceeds to assert Dutch authority in Delaware River Valley (New Sweden). Rebellion of forces at Tinicum Island crushed by "Big Bella" Printz. The despot governor loses respect and his authority is weakened. He is disgraced, and is anxious to return to the old country.

Anders Johnson, leader of 22 Finns resisting despot rule, executed by Printz, August 1st.

After appointing his brother-in-law Johan Papegoja as Acting Governor, Governor Johan Printz returns to Sweden-Finland via New Amsterdam, with his wife and four Children. Eager Finns in Sweden-Finland await the opportunity of colonizing in America, because living conditions in the homeland have become chaotic and unbearable. The ship "Orn" arrived at Gothenberg, November 9th to mail report of new settlement with 250 settlers from the Fimmarken lands of Vemland etc.

"Orn" shipped away February 2nd with a capacity load, directed by the new governor Johan Rising, leaving about a hundred disappointed settlers on the dock. They had been waiting about eleven weeks in Gothenberg, but were left behind because the other proposed ship "Gyllene Haji" was not seaworthy. The voyage of the "Orn" via Canary Islands through storms and difficulties resulted in much sickness and many deaths... After several stops at West Indies Ports, the "Orn" arrived to anchor off Fort Ellisburgh, which was deserted, on the eve of Trinity Sunday, May 31st. They proceeded to Fort Casimir on Trinity Sunday, held religious services, and then occupied the Fort (from the Dutch) without a fight; renaming in Ft. Trefaldight, (Trinity) April 13th, after extensive repairs, the "Gyllene Haji", finally departed for America with many of the earlier stranded Fimmarken settlers; in charge of Capt. Hans Assmudson Besk, to whom Queen Christina had donated a grant of land on the west shore (Finland) near South Chester. Sickness was again rampant on the ship, and Capt. Besk died in the port of Porto Rico July 22nd and was buried outside of the town. "Gyllene Haji" left Porto Rico August 15th for the American colony but missed the Delaware and passed by Staten Island, into the Bay of New Amsterdam (Manhattan), in to the hands of the Dutch Governor, This was a pleasant prize for "Peggly" Stuyvesant, who invited the colonists to settle in his domain, even as other Finns and Swedes had done before them.

1655 Governor Stuyvesant decided it was about time to take over from Swedes, so he sent his battle-Field of six ships armed with 317 soldiers and some sailors; anchoring before the ruins of Ft. Elftong, on August 29th. Gov. Rising capitulated to Dutch authority, and expected to return to Sweden-Finland with about 36 others. For the other remaining colonists it meant submission and allegiance to New Netherland Authority. Peter Lindstrom, Swedish geographer reports that Swedes and Finns are settlers on Burlington Island (West Jersey); also Finnish settlers have sizable farming areas on the west bank southward of Christiana and westward of Elk River. Lindstrom stated that the east bank Jersey lands were preferable with abundant fishing and hunting; and farming to attract settlers who were friendly with the Indians. Twelfth expedition arrived with 92 Finns and 13 Swedes, on the ship "Mercurius"; under guidance of Papegoja who had an interpreter to cope with the Finnish language. Few embarked, but the "Mercurius" continued upstream to Burlington, (New Jersey).

Finnish settlers bring nomadic by nature had no problems in settling in remote terrain, away from stockades, where they could be in peace and friendliness with the Indians. Neither was the Dutch authority and cause for anxiety, because the despotic rule of "Big Bella" Printz was hardly favored by Finns to gloat about. The Dutch authorities held no grievances toward Finns, and invited Finns to serve with them, to administer, and as interpreters with the Commissioners; and this community administration, coordinated by Finns, continued even through the English occupation, after the Dutch capitulated in 1664.

1661 In South Jersey from Ft. Elftong, and present Salem Raccoon and Repaigue Rivers were cherished settlements for Finnish even before Fenwick, and northward through Varkens Kill, and pioneers; Finns Point developing into a sizable community, probably the earliest permanent community in South Jersey. Early mapmakers noted present Penns Neck as Finns Towne, and the river in the area as Finns River, as well as the Finnish Settlement at the present town of Pennsville.

1663 Eric Mullica Point settled in 1660, later Tacony on the west bank, married Ingeborg, daughter of Israel Helme. Mullica soon moved to New Jersey to establish his name of Finnish origin as an outstanding family name in South Jersey history, with several landmarks; Mullica Hill, Town Bank on the Mullica River; Mullica family tree has many variations from the original Finnish Mullicka. Two ships "St. Jacob" and "De Poperlander Kerck" brought settlers, mostly Finns recruited by Israel Helme from Sweden-Finland settlers. Israel Helme was appointed a Commissioner by the Dutch; by English also.

1664 Delaware Valley (New Sweden Colony) taken by the English from Dutch. Early Delaware settlers had no official land title recordings, for the quarter century pioneer settlements, prior to English occupation. Therefore, specific dates and exact locations of the Finnish settlements before 1664, have been inferred from available research and recordings by early genealogists and responsible historical writers. Impact of the pioneer Finnish (and Swedish) settlers in the Delaware Valley, before the English and well recognized by William Penn, is of significance and should also be noteworthy for consideration. English begin to officially record permits for sale and transfers of land titles.
1667 Territory on west bank of the Delaware, area of Christine River (south of present Wilmington) at Crane Hook and Ferne Hook became of a sizable Finnish settlement region, requiring their own new church, which was built of notched-end logs in 1667. Rev. Lokenius (Locks), although busy at three churches and as traveling preacher at Finnish farming communities, especially in South Jersey, also was pastor at the Crane Hook Church.

1668 Land between Oldmans and Timber Creeks officially sold by Indians and recorded in New Jersey, by permit to Ole Rasen (Råsåmen), Cornelis Learson, and Ole Johnson (Jonsson).

1669 Rev. Lasse Locks (Lokenius) was also an inspirant involved in the so-called "Long Finn" debacle, or rebellious intrigue. Credence as to whether the uprising stirred by Marcus Jacobus ("Long Finn") posing as "Königsmark" of Swedish nobility, assisted by Henry Coleman (Kolsmaan) and about 75 cohorts, was dishonorable or commendable, must be adjudged by one's own code of ethics, even as historical narrations differ. "Long Finn" et al. did rebel against the English crown in 1669 (before Wm. Penn), but so did the Dutch and other disgruntled colonists.

1673 First legal residence for New Sweden colonists established in New Jersey for Hans Hopman, Peter Jonson and Jons Justansen, and their families; of land warrants transferred by Rasen Learsen Jonson for the lands (in present Gloucester Co.) between Timber and Oldmans Creeks.

1675 Settlement in South Jersey by Finns (and Swedes) developed rapidly by colonists from the west bank (Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Maryland); as Finns transferring their land holdings to the English, settle in South Jersey.

1676 Major John Fenwick attempts to evict pioneer Finns from their established communities of Finns Point, Finns Town, etc. in the present Salem vicinity.

1677 Wicaco Lutheran Church (of Finnish notched-end log construction) was built to serve the numerous colonists who migrated to the east bank vicinity of Racoon to Pensauken Creeks in New Jersey, from other more distant communities and jurisdiction of the Christina Lutheran Church (now Wilmington). Many of the farming communities were visited by traveling preachers as — Rev. Lasse Locks and Rev. Israel Fliovander.

1678 Census of Crane Hook (1675-1678) records a dozen large families of Finns, most of whom were fined in connection with the "Long Finn" episode, namely: — Andriessen, Pelle Perckle, Matson, Eskelson, Skrieka, Torsson Tossava, Peterson, Johannson, Bertelson, Johnson, Lammon (?) and Capt. Evert Hendrickson; Rev. Lasse Locks was pastor of the Crane Hook Lutheran Church. Later, many sold their lands to the English and settled in New Jersey.

1682 William Penn landed at the mouth of Chester Creek (Finland-Uplands) and named the settlement as "Chester"; being the principal seat of administration for Penn, while Philadelphia was being built.

Penn admirably respected the land rights of the pioneer settlers who sold their lands to the English and migrated in notable numbers from the west bank to the east bank into New Jersey.

1683 "The Great Treaty of Peace" between the Indians (Sachem Tammany) and William Penn was made at Shackaskan on the "Treaty Elm Tree" at the farm of Capt. Laske Kokck, who also served as interpreter and commissioner at the treaty, on June 23rd.

1685 Woola Dalbo was the first New Sweden colonist to sit in the N.J. Assembly.

1686 Woola Dalbo, son of Peter named official surveyor and road builder.

1688 Rev. Lasse Locks dies, after serving forty years as Finnish Lutheran preacher; left a family tree of descendants of notable accomplishments in New Jersey American colonial history.

1693 Official records list 139 families, and 939 individual colonists of Sweden-Finland origin.

1700 Early Delaware settlers had no official land title recordings, for the quarter century pioneer settlements, prior to English occupation.

1697 Eric Mullica sets at Lower Bank, N.J. on Mullica River.

1699 Old Swedes Lutheran Church completed, to replace the first Lutheran log church in America; with funds from New Jersey parish, conditional to giving similar aid in building church in Racoon.

1700 New Gloria Dei Lutheran Church built to replace old log church.

1701 Rev. Lars Tollsанию Preaches at Gloria Dei Church (Phila.) but agitates for an independent Lutheran Church at Racoon, N.J.

1702 Kings Highway extended to reach the Racoon Creek community.

1703 Racoon Lutheran Parish founded by Rev. Tollsанию; Trinity Lutheran Church built on notched-end logs.

1706 Tollsанию is drowned in the Delaware.

1713 Rev. Abraham Lienius as pastor of Racoon church begins compiling parish records, for permanent genealogy, as is customary in the Lutheran Church. These church records, and also at the other churches have proven to be of invaluable aid to historians and genealogists for research, in establishing authenticity of history pertaining to the early Delaware settlers.

1714 First permanent Swedish school established at Raccoon.

1715 Founding of St. George Lutheran Church at Penss Neck (Churchtown) not far from Finns Point, authorized by Bishop Sweden. Early settlers of the Finnish communities in this region were visited by traveling preachers; and also crossed the Delaware to west bank churches.

1715 Swedish School established at Reapaup.

1717 March 31st, St. Georges Lutheran Church, Penss Neck, N.J. is dedicated. Rev. Lienius is pastor of both churches.

1720 Raccoon (Trinity) and Penss Neck (St. George) Lutheran parishes purchase a mutual "Glebe" or parsonage farm.

1726 Cohassey Mission (org. 1690, Justus Falckner) now Evang'li Luth'n Church.

1742 Services in English at St. Georges Penss Neck Church. Finnish and Swedish colonists by intermarriages are assimilated into the American colonial environment; English Language replacing Finnish and Swedish.

It was the kin of Yrljän Kyy (Kyn, Keen, Keene) Sarah Austin, of Finnish origin, who with ladies of the Gloria Dei Church (Philadelp-hia), according to PENNSYLVANIA MAGAZINE OF HISTORY & BIOGRAPHY, made the first American U.S. flag.
In the early pioneering days, in the vicinity of Port Elizabeth, and regions of the Maurice River, about 1690, Finns and Swedes of such colonial names as Vanaman, Steelman, Mullica, Cobb, Kyya, Petersen, Moelander, Hopman, and their interrelated families had extensive farms, with sawmills using power from the river. They depended on the parishes of Raccoon and Penns Neck for religious services; until 1745, when the Maurice River (Elizabeth Port) Church was completed. Like the other colonists, with origin from Sweden-Finland, they also left their impact and heritage into our American history.

The first printed description of the settlement of Finland in the New Sweden colony appears on page 75 in Campanius Holm’s “Om Nya Sverige uti America,” published in Sweden in the Swedish language in 1702. The description says: “Finland, where Finns live, in strong houses well built, without fortifications.”

Prof. John B. (Pentti) Olli and his wife (Corinne L. Olli) have done vast research and have compiled “Historical References to the Finns in Delaware in Seventeenth Century Records,” in 1937. These fine references written by Corinne L. Olli appeared in New Yorkin Utiset.

Early American Log Cabin
Introduced by Pioneer Finns
References to the Finns in Delaware in Seventeenth Century Records

By CORINNE L. OLLI

All well-informed American-Finns know or should know by now that a group of seventeenth century Finns, then subjects of the Swedish State and on an equal footing politically with native Swedes, were co-founders with them of the New Sweden Colony. This colony was established in 1638 in the Delaware Valley, which is a part of the present states of Delaware, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey. According to the Allen Report (House of Representatives—Report No. 1391), which bases its statements on Dr. Anantius Johnson’s book “The Swedish Settlements on the Delaware, Their History and Relations to the Indians, Dutch and English,” there is “proof positive and final that the Finnish element in New Sweden was important; it represented one-third and probably more of the total population of the colony.”

In spite of the reassuringly authoritative ring of that statement, there may still be a few “dubbing Thomases” among us who think that it is probably greatly exaggerated; there are also those, however, who accept the statement and who would welcome information about the part played by our forebears in the establishment of the New Sweden Colony. To both groups then, what follows in this article will, it is hoped, be of interest.

As I was browsing in the history section of the library of my school, my attention was attracted by a book entitled “Original Narratives of Early American History—Narratives of Early Pennsylvania, West New Jersey, and Delaware, 1630 - 1707,” edited by A. Cook Myers. Remembering that the New Sweden Colony had been established in 1638, the dates 1630 - 1707 caught my eye, so I took the book off the shelf. The title page revealed further that the volume, published by Scribners in 1912, was reproduced under the auspices of the American Historical Association; that the General Editor was J. Franklin Jamison, PhD, L.L.D., Director of the Department of Historical Research in the Carnegie Institution of Washington, D. C.

I knew, then, that what I had in my hands was an absolutely reliable, authoritative book, edited by able scholars. The book is a collection of narratives in the form of reports, letters, and historical sketches written in Swedish, German, Dutch and English by various individuals who actually “lived and moved and had their being” in the Delaware Valley between 1630 and 1707 when a group of Finnish colonists, too, lived there. To quote the book itself: “The scenes of action of the narrative assembled in this volume is Delaware Bay and River, that broad waterway which lies central to what is not only the domain of three great commonwealths, but in a deeply significant historical sense the keystone region of the American Nation” (Page 3). The Swedish, Dutch and German narratives have of course been translated; the English narratives appear in their original spelling and phrasing. Imagine my delight at finding in these 17th century accounts several references to the Finnish colonists!

The first excerpt here is from a report made by Governor Johan Rising, who became the governor of New Sweden Colony in 1651, replacing Governor Johan Printz, who ruled the Colony from 1643 - 1653. The report was written from Fort Christina, New Sweden, July 13th, 1654. In it, Governor Rising refers to one of the settlements in the Colony as Finland, the site of which was between the present Marcus Hook in Pennsylvania and the mouth of Naamans Creek in Northern Delaware.

Report of Governor Rising, 1654, p. 149.

“Concerning our people I can say that they are, (God be praised), mostly well, and altogether three hundred and seventy souls, and the Swedes were only seventy when we arrived here. The old people largely remain (a number of old men go home again); and one of them is better than any of the newcomers, who are weak and a good part of them... Finns. The best men went away from here with the Governor, of whom a great number would gladly have remained here who at this time could have done much good, which now must stand undone until a more proper time.”

The second excerpt is from a letter written by no less a person than William Penn in 1682. It is dated from Philadelphia, Penn., and was addressed to the Committee of the Free Society of Traders. This letter was written by William Penn after a tour of his dominions, (Pennsylvania) and he was “thus fully informed by personal observation of the events and conditions” which he records:

Letter from William Penn to the Committee of the Free Society of Traders, 1683, p. 237.

“The first Planters in these parts were the Dutch and soon after them the Swedes and Finns. The Dutch applied them-
selves to traffic, the Swedes and Finns to Husbandry (farming). There were some disputes between them some years, the Dutch looking upon them as intruders upon their purchases and possession, which was finally ended in the surrender made by John Riving, the Swedish Governor, to Peter Stuyvesant, Governor for the States of Holland. Anno 1655."

The third excerpt from a report written by William Penn in 1655 entitled "A Further Account of the Providence of Pennsylvania." His pride in his own countrymen, the English, is understandable:


"The people are a collection of divers nations in Europe: as French, Dutch, Germans, Swedes, Danes, Finns, Scotch, Irish and English: and of the last equal to all the rest: And, which is admirable, not a reflection on that account; but as they are of one kind, and in one place and under one Allegiance, so they live like people of one country, which civil union has had a considerable influence towards the prosperity of that place."

Thomas Paschall, an Englishman from Bristol, England, furnishes us with a very interesting excerpt! He came to America in 1682 and settled near Philadelphia. In fact, there is a town in Pennsylvania even now called Paschallville. The river referred to in his letter, written to a friend in England, is the Schuylkill River in Penna. The details in the letter about the "daily bread" of the Colonists are most illuminating: Modern housewives will marvel at "beef, pork and mutton at two pence per pound and some cheaper" in these days of high meat prices!

Note also how Thomas Paschall praises the Swedes and Finns for their ingenuity in knowing how to speak even the Indian language! The excerpt follows:

Letter of Thomas Paschall, 1683, pp. 251-254.

"The River is taken up all along by the Swedes and Finns, and some Dutch, before the English came, near eight score miles, and the Englishmen some of them, buy their plantations and get room by the great river side, and the rest get into Creeks, and small rivers that run into it, and some go into the woods seven or eight miles; Thomas Colborne (from Berkshire, England, settled on Chestertown) is three miles in the woods, he is well to pass, and has about fourteen acres of corn now growing, and has gotten between 30 and 40 hogs by his trade, in this short time. I have hired a house for my family for the winter, and I have gotten a little house in my land for my servants, and have cleared land about six acres: and this I can say. I never wished myself at Bristol again since my departure . . ."

"... Now I shall give you an impartial account of the country as I find it, as followed. When we came into Delaware bay we saw an infinite number of small fish in shoals, also large fish is a brave pleasant river as can leaping in the water; the river be desired, affording divers sort of fish in great plenty it is planted all along the shores, and in some creeks, especially in Pennsylvania side, by Swedes, Finns, and Dutch, and now at last, English among them, and have filled all the rivers and creeks a great way in the woods, and have settled about 160 miles up the great river; some English that are above the falls, have sowed this year 30 or 40 bushels of wheat, and have great stocks of cattle; most of the Swedes and Finns are ingenuous People, they speak English, Swede, Finn, Dutch and the Indian: They plant but little Indian corn, not tobacco: their women make most of the linen cloth they wear, they spin and weave it and make fine linen, and are many of them curious housewives: The people generally eat rye bread, being approved of by them, not that here is not good wheat, for I have eaten as good bread and drank as good drink as ever I did in England, as also very good butter and cheese, as most in England. Here are three sorts of wheat, as winter, summer and buck-wheat; the winter wheat they sow at the fall, the summer wheat in March, these two sorts are ripe in June; then having taken in this they plow the same land, and sow buck-wheat, which is ripe in September. I have not given above 2x6d per skipple (which is 3 English pecks) for the best wheat and that in goods which cost little more than half so much in England, here is very good rye at 2s per skipple; also barley of 2 sorts, as winter, and summer, at 4 Guilders per skipple; also oats, and 3 sorts of Indian corn (two of which sorts they can malt and make good beer of as of barley), at four Guilders per skipple, a Guilder is four pence halfpenny. I have bought good beef, pork, and mutton at two pence per pound and some cheaper . . . Here is a great store of country . . . I have bought good venison of the Indians very cheap . . . I have bought four deer for two yards of trading cloth . . . We had beafresh this fall for little or nothing; it is good food, tasing much like beef . . . here is plenty of rum, sugar, ginger, and molasses. I was lately at Bridlington fair (marginal note in manuscript "New Jersey"), where were a great resort of people, with cattle and all sorts of goods, sold at very reasonable rates . . . Here are gardens with all sorts of herbs, and some more than in England, also
gooseberries and rosetrees, but what other flowers I know not yet. Here are peaches in abundance of three sorts I have seen rot on the ground, and the hogs eat them, they make good spirits from them, also from corn and cherries, and a sort of wild plums and grapes, and most people have stills of copper for that use . . . . The woods are full of oaks, many very high, many of them about two foot through and some bigger . . . A Swede will fell twelve of the bigger in one day.

". . . William Penn is settling people in towns. There are markets kept in two towns, viz. Philadelphia, being chiefest, Chester, formerly called Upland."

Gabriel Thomas a Welshman, who spent fifteen years in William Penn’s Colony in Pennsylvania, also made some observations about the part played by the Finns and Swedes in the development of the Delaware Valley. The following excerpts are from his book “An Historical and Geographical Account of Pennsylvania and of West New Jersey,” written in 1698. Judging by some of his comments, the settlement was a veritable paradise where there were no old maids, no jealous husbands, and where the children were “beautiful to behold!”

The excerpts follow:

An Historical and Geographical Account of Pennsylvania and of West New Jersey, by Gabriel Thomas 1698, p. 316.

“The next thing that came there (Pennsylvania) were the Dutch, between fifty and sixty years ago, and were the first planters in those parts; but they made little or no improvements, (applying themselves wholly to traffic in skins and furs, which the Indians or native furnished them with, and which they bartered for rum, strong liquors, and sugar, with others, thereby gaining great profit) till near the time of the wars between England and them about thirty or forty years ago. Soon after them came the Swedes and Finns, who applied themselves to husbandry, and were the first Christian people that made any considerable improvements there.

Same report p. 332.

“The Christian children born are generally well favored and beautiful to behold: I never knew any come into the world with the least blemish on any part of its body, being in general, observed to be better natured, milder, and more tender hearted than those born in England.”

Page 333.

“Jealousy among men is here very rare, and barrenness among women hardly to be heard of nor are old maids to be met with: for all commonly marry before they are twenty years of age, and seldom any married woman but hath a child upon her lap.”

“What I have delivered concerning this province, is indisputably true. I was an eye-witness to it all, for I went in the first ship that was bound from England for that country since it received the name Pennsylvania, which was in the year 1681. I have declined giving any account of several things which I have only heard others speak of, because I did not see them myself, for I never held that way infallible, to make reports from hearsay.”

The last excerpt quoted here is in the form of a poem, which in its entirety, is a description of “what things are known, enjoyed and like to be discovered in the Province of Pennsylvania.” The introduction gives the following facts about the poem:

“In 1692, William Bradford, of Philadelphia published a small quarto of eight pages entitled A Short Description of Pennsylvania. This little book is in verse and is believed to be the first metrical composition printed in Pennsylvania. An element of uncertainty hangs over the authorship of the verses. The title and last page of the book assign them to one Richard Frame.”

The few lines quoted about the people who inhabited Pennsylvania. The verses that follow are obviously not great poetry, but they are picturesque!

“I also give you here to understand
What people first inhabited this Land;
Those that were here before the
Swedes and Finns,
Were naked Indians, clothed
with their skins!
Which can give no account from
which they came;
They have no records for to
show the same;
But I may think, and others
may suppose
What they may be, yet I think
few men knows,
Unless they are of Esau’s scattered Seed,
Or of some other wild corrupted
Breed.
They take no care to plow, nor
yet to sow.
Nor how to till their Land
they do not know,
Therefore by that we may
observe it plain,
That this can hardly be the Seed
of Cain;
Some men did think they were
the scattered Jews,
But yet I cannot well believe
such News;
They neither do New Moons nor
Sabbath keep,
Without much care they eat,
they drink, they sleep;
Their care for wordly riches is
but light.
By day they hunt, and down
they lie at night.
Those infidels that dwelleth in the wood.
I shall conclude of them so far so good."

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The six excerpts quoted in this article from a book containing authentic original narratives of life among the colonists in the Delaware River Valley furnish incontrovertible proof that the Finns, even though they were Swedish citizens, were known not as Swedes but as Finns in the colony established in the Delaware valley in 1638.

New York City, Dec. 23rd, 1937.

Commemorating 300 years, Finnish Tercentenary Day June 29, 1938 was celebrated with grand ceremonies at Chester, Pa.

There was nationwide interest in celebrating the Delaware Tercentenary for commemorating the Finnish and Swedish settlers, 1638. Members of the Federal Commission were appointed equally by the President of the United States, Senate and House of Representatives. States of Delaware, Pennsylvania and New Jersey each functioned with their own Tercentenary Commissions. Consequently June 29, 1938, Delaware Tercentenary Day was a great day of historical significance in America, Sweden and Finland. Coordinating with the official government and state commissions were the Historical Societies, nationwide Swedish-American and the Finnish-American Tercentenary Committees, as well as the official Swedish Government and the official Finnish Government Commissions. The programs were in keeping with the magnificence of the occasion, unveilings of monuments and historical markers and plaques, medals, commemorative souvenirs, and especially the Tercentenary Postage Stamps which were issued for the occasion by the United States, Sweden and Finland.

On the following day June 30, 1938, the celebration continued in the State of New Jersey, under direction of Hon. D. Stewart Craven, Chairman of the New Sweden Tercentenary Commission of New Jersey.

Chairman Craven reiterated for the benefit of the history of the Garden State, that the church records of Swedish and Finnish settlers of South Jersey serve as useful authentic historical evaluation: “For awhile the settlers on the South Jersey side crossed to Ft. Christina (Wilmington) for Lutheran Church services. Also traveling preachers held meetings in Jersey settlements, but the church officials ordained that Ft. Christina had jurisdiction of Lutheran Churches in New Sweden, on both sides of the river. Finally the east shore settlers asserted their own rights and built their own log churches; Trinity Lutheran Church and St. George Lutheran Church. The settlers had meager funds to pay pastors, but provided a farm the Glebe, for the pastor to serve jointly at both churches; but at times both churches enjoyed separate preachers, sometimes none at all . . .”

under auspices of the New Sweden Tercentenary Commission of New Jersey, Lewis Cook and Joseph S. Sickler, genealogists and historians, have carefully studied and translated the early church records of Trinity and St. George Parishes, near Finns Point.
In commemoration of the first Finnish settlers in South Jersey, this memorial plaque was erected at the original site of St. George Lutheran Church at the intersection of the Salem-Pennsylvannia Highway and Church-Landing Road, about four miles northeast of Finns Point, which was of the largest farming settlement of the pioneers:

**FINNS POINT**

**Near here**
300 years ago and later lived the first colony of settlers of Finnish blood upon this continent. **To their memory and to the love and freedom and justice that they handed down to their descendants this tablet is erected.**

**JUNE 30, 1938**

**New Sweden Tercentenary Commission of New Jersey**
D. Stewart Craven, Chairman

Hon. D. Stewart Craven, of Salem, N. J., had given meticulous attention to seeking out and preserving historical records of the first white settlements; giving to the nation a chapter in history which had long been neglected, if not forgotten.

We have merely skimmed the surface, without intention to present a comprehensive historical story regarding the pioneer Finns. There would be enough narrative in that all-embracing historical subject to fill an entire shelf of your library. Therefore, we have presented only a brief synopsis of this vast historical material, pertaining to the contribution of our Finnish forebears into the "American Way of Life," of this great nation. There could be so many varied, interesting subjects, or subtitles, each requiring many pages and chapters for correspondingly extensive writing. As many skilled authors have already done a great amount of that tremendous work, this writer will humbly refrain from trying to improve on their historical writings.

It has been an interesting challenge for us to arouse interest among Americans, and for them to accept historical truths regarding the settlements of early American Finns, in the seventeenth century. We can determine that our project has been quite productive, in that there has been developed a widespread demand for reprints of the series Early Finnish Settlers of Delaware Valley.

At this time I will also dispose with the Bibliography, or reference sources, excepting as previously mentioned, because most of our readers have already been apprised of the principal Delaware historical references, available in our public libraries.

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**Die finnische Dampfdansetube**
L’êtuve finnoise "sauna".
Suomenainen sauna. Finsk bastu.
The Finnish bath "sauna".

As an indication of how American history books and encyclopedias may be corrected (to include Finns as pioneer Americans) by the diligent and tenacious enthusiasm of an American with plenty of "guts", and who is proud of his Finnish origin; we submit a communication of research from THE WORLD BOOK ENCYCLOPEDIA, written to Dr. Leekala. It is informative and self-explanatory.

(NEXT PAGE)
THE WORLD BOOK ENCYCLOPEDIA
Department of Research and Special Services

Doctor John M. Leekala, Chicago 54, Ill. 1900 West 25th Street, October 19, 1962
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Doctor Leekala:

Thank you for your letter concerning THE WORLD BOOK article. We are sorry to have delayed so long in replying to your comments; however, the questions which you raised required extensive research which has just now been completed.

In the course of our research we have corresponded with both the Delaware County Historical Society in Chester, Pennsylvania, and the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. In addition to the information which they provided, they also referred us to two very authoritative sources on the early settlement of the Delaware River Valley, The Delaware Finns (E. A. Leub), The Humanity Press, 1926), and The Finns on the Delaware, 1638-1655 (John H. Wooten, Columbus University Press, 1938).

Our findings indicate that the century anniversary celebrations were held in 1938 in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware, to celebrate the three hundred anniversary of the first permanent white settlement in the Delaware River Valley by Swedish and Finnish settlers. Many individual celebrations were held in various towns and cities in these three states in 1938. This, however, does not necessarily mean that each of the municipalities which held a celebration was actually settled in 1628. Our research shows conclusively that the 1638 settlement was made at the present site of Wilmington, Delaware. The first two expeditions by the New Sweden Company landed at this side. The third expedition, among whose members were those who finally settled in what is now Pennsylvania, did not leave Gothenburg, Sweden, until July, 1641. Governor Johan Printa began the northward movement up the Delaware in 1644. Donald H. Kent, Director of the Bureau of Research, Publications, and Records of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, assures us that 1644 is as accurate a date for the settlement of the Chester, Pennsylvania, as can now be determined.

Two settlements, Finland and Upland were made in the Pennsylvania area. As stated in WORLD BOOK, Chester is located on the site of Upland. The neighboring settlement of Finland was located between present-day Marcus Hook and Chester. The city limits of Chester now encompass part of the area that was Finland and this is why that particular location was selected for the monument which you mentioned. This monument, the gift of the people of Finland to the people of the United States, was erected in honor of the anniversary of the common history of two countries. That common history extends from 1638 and the settlement of Fort Christina in the State of Delaware.

We are glad to state that "by conservative estimate," "One-third to one-half of the pioneers of the Delaware Valley" were Finns. Incomplete records and the fact that the Swedish form of some names was used on passenger lists obscure exact information as to which of the settlers were ethnically Finns. Donald H. Kent states that "to say which settlements were predominantly Finnish in ethnic origin, and which Swedish, would be virtually impossible today." However, from his own exhaustive knowledge of the subject, he feels that the majority of those who actually settled the land were probably Finns. As you commented in your letter, the Finns were under the Swedish Crown at this point in history. THE WORLD BOOK article to which you referred is meant only to indicate that the founding of Upland was an enterprise of the Swedish government. However, we will be happy to call the information which we have gathered to the attention of our History Editor so that possible mention of the Finnish element among the pioneers can be considered for inclusion in a future edition.

Thank you again for your patience in awaiting our reply. The materials which you kindly enclosed for our personal use are returned as you requested. We trust that this explanation will prove satisfactory, Doctor Leekala, and that you will continue to find THE WORLD BOOK ENCYCLOPEDIA a valuable general reference work.

Sincerely yours,

FIELD ENTERPRISES
EDUCATIONAL CORPORATION
WILLIAM H. NAUG,
He Decided To Visit America

On August 31, 1747, Kalm received the royal appointment to the Chair of Economics in Turku University, the first holder of the new professorship. His first step, like that of many other professors of that time and today, was to apply for leave of absence. America was looming up. Let us skirt over the new professor's difficulties in scraping together the funds for the trip. He received contributions from various sources: Manufaktur-Kontoret in Stockholm, the Universities of Uppsala, Lund and Turku and many private persons. The voyage was declared to be under the auspices of the Academy of Science, and this institution also made a financial contribution. Lars Jungström, a gardener, accompanied Kalm as servant, groom, companion, whatever the need might be.

Received By Benjamin Franklin

His first stop was England where he stayed for a few months. He left that island in July 25 and landed on September 15, 1748, at Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, the former New Sweden. There among the persons who received him was no less than Benjamin Franklin. Within a few weeks Kalm was astounded by the new things he found and he soon realized that Linné's Flora Boreae was inadequate for classification of this new wealth of botany. He travelled around the eastern parts of the country and the following year left for Canada. There he moved through the country as the guest of the King of France and recorded his many interesting experiences in his diary. While in America, Kalm married Anna Margareta Sandin, the widow of a Swedish clergyman.

In February 1755 Kalm was finally ready to set out for home again. To the very last moment he recorded new discoveries. *) His baggage had grown enormously. He took with him plants and animals, thousands of seeds and plants, and a live tortoise for Linné who declined the gift. On his arrival back in Stockholm Kalm announced that he would distribute free the seeds of 126 varieties of American plants. The demand was great and Kalm spent days on end handling out his specimens.

The journey is best described in Kalm's own diary, published at that time in many languages and receiving well-merited attention. The trip took three and a half years in all. The diary makes rather heavy reading, written as it is in a pedantically scientific style without a trace of humor or literary pretension. But it is outstanding for the powers of observation displayed by the author. He recorded with scientific accuracy the happenings, customs and habits of America, data on the geology, climate, agriculture and urban population of the country. He was interested in everything he encountered. Night after night he made copious notes in his diary of what he had observed during the course of the day. In many ways his records are the only reliable source of information concerning eighteenth-century America, especially for cultural history and natural history. Nor was he just an observer. He had an inquiring turn of mind and tried to find the reason for what he saw. Often his explanation was the correct one, though naturally he made mistakes.

*) Looking for the word kalmia in Webster's dictionary you will find that an American shrub bears his name. — Ed.
Pertinent chronological data regarding early American settlers from Sweden-Finland would require volumes of space and writing besides exhaustive study. Commendable research has been done by many historians, which are a matter of record available in our public libraries, and other historical archives, in America as well as in Sweden and Finland.

Besides our Finnish genealogists and historians, probably the most comprehensive Swedish phase research has been made by Dr. Amandus Johnson, who has translated and compiled several volumes pertaining to Delaware Valley settlers, which are generally referred to as basic pertinent Swedish historical reference, by history students and contemporary writers.

In addition to the reference books previously mentioned, this writer wishes to recommend the following excellent works for historical reading, to those who may be interested in further study, regarding the early Delaware Valley settlers from Sweden-Finland.


"History of New Sweden, or Settlements on the River Delaware, translated by Wm. M. Reynolds, Hist. Soc. of Penna., (Israell Acrelius, 1798)


"Records of the Court at New Castle 1676-1681, Colonial Soc. of Pa., 1904.

"Records of the Court at Upland, Pa., 1676-1681, Colonial Soc. of Pa. 1890."

My sincere appreciation and heartfelt thanks to all who have in some measure assisted me in preparing this booklet, to assert the Finnish impact in American colonial history and the heritage of our forebears into "The American Way Of Life".

Emil Lincoln Ostman

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