

the Timen Stiddem Society

NEWSLETTER



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

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SUMMER/FALL
2018

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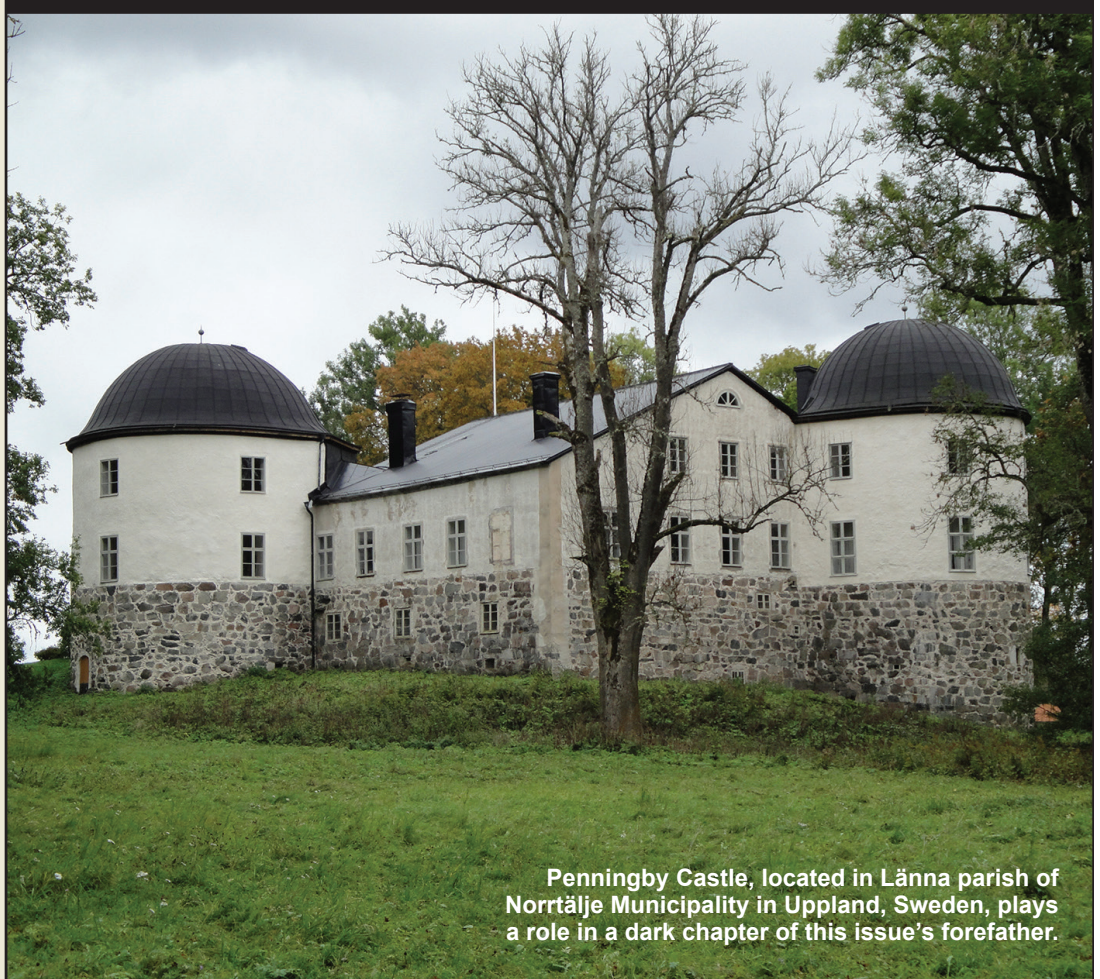
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Our Other New Sweden Forefathers



Penningby Castle, located in Länna parish of Norrtälje Municipality in Uppland, Sweden, plays a role in a dark chapter of this issue's forefather.

**Part
II**

**Olaf Persson Stille
and His Family**

Our Other New Sweden Forefathers, Part II: Olof Persson Stille and His Family

By Dr. Peter S. Craig



From Volume 1, Number 16, Fall 1997 Issue of *Swedish Colonial News*, reprinted with permission of the Swedish Colonial Society, Philadelphia, Pa.

Olof Stille was born on the island of Solo in Roslagen, northeast of Stockholm, the son of Per Stille, a relatively prosperous supervisor of the Penningby estate in Lanna parish. By 1627 Per Stille had retired and was granted land by the owners of Penningby on a nearby island called Humblö. Here Olof Stille married and began his family. Although Olof Stille was on good terms with Erik Bielke, who inherited Penningby in 1629, he did not think well of Bielke's wife, Catarina Fleming.

At the Norrtälje fair in 1636, Olof Stille indiscreetly voiced his opinion of Lady Catarina Fleming, who retaliated by prosecuting Olof for defamation and took his property at Humblö. When Olof refused to leave the island, he was imprisoned. After securing his freedom, Olof and his family resettled in Matsunda, where he was joined by one of his former servants named Anders. Lady

Fleming, now a widow, had Anders seized on 18 March 1638 and imprisoned at Penningby under the claim that Anders had broken a verbal agreement with the late Lord Bielke to be their servant.

Olof Stille heard the news the next day, entered Penningby Castle by a secret door, broke the lock to the dungeon with his axe and then fled, with Anders carrying the axe and Olof his own rapier. On complaint from Lady Fleming, the Governor issued an order for Olof Stille's arrest on 28 March 1638 — the same day that the first expedition to New Sweden was landing at the Rocks. At the trial on 13 April 1638 Olof Stille was convicted of burglary and sentenced to death by the sword. The appellate court, however, modified the sentence to a fine of 100 daler silver money, the equivalent of 17 months pay for a New Sweden soldier.

Three years later, in May 1641, when

New Sweden forefathers united by marriage to the Stidham* family

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The 1693 Census of the Swedes on the Delaware

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



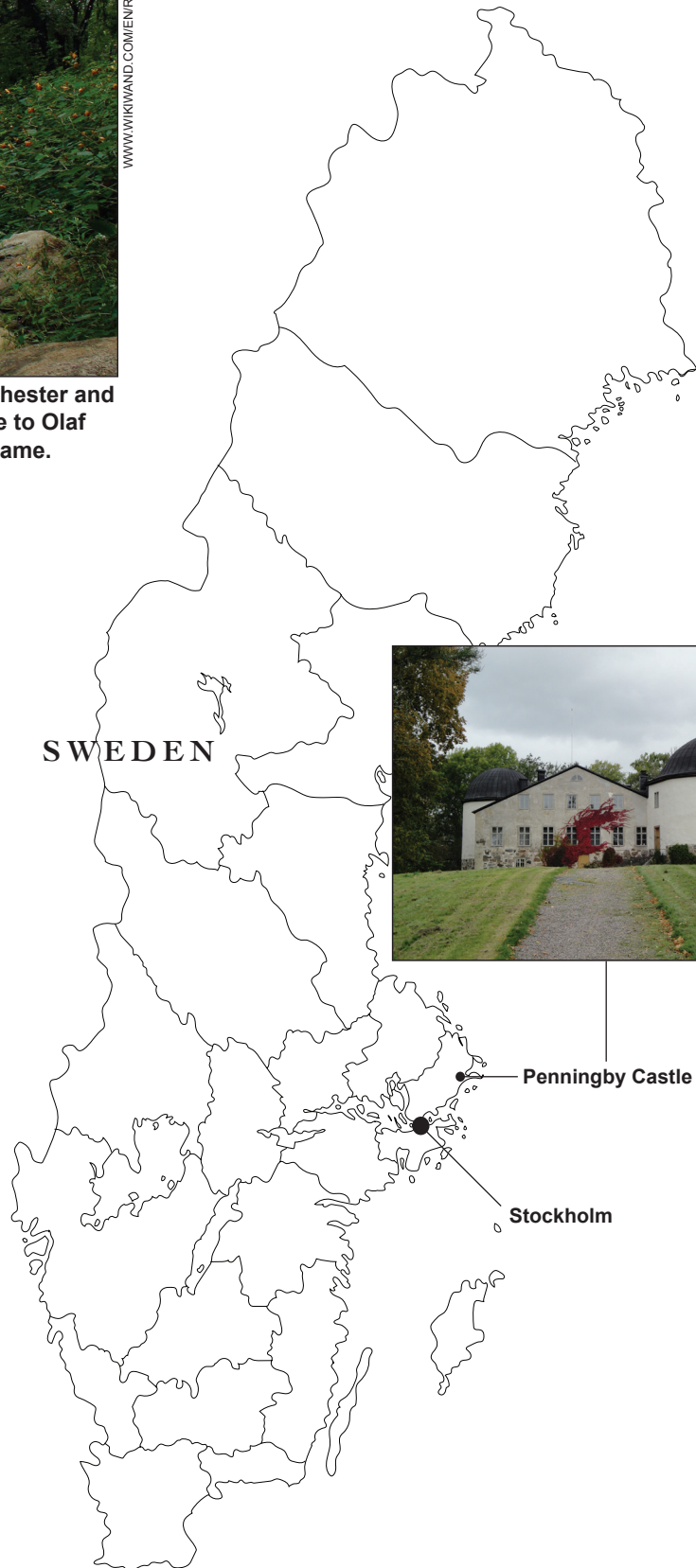
WWW.WIKIWAND.COM/EN/RIDLEY_CREEK

Ridley Creek, a tributary of the Delaware River in Chester and Delaware counties, Pa., looks today as it must have to Olaf Stille in the 17th century when the creek bore his name.

the *Charitas* departed for New Sweden, the passenger list included Olof Stille, a mill-maker, his wife, a daughter aged 7 and a son aged 1 1/2. Also on board were Olof's younger brother Axel Stille, and the family of Mans Svensson Lorn, whose wife appears to have been Olof's younger sister. His older brother, Johan Stille, later pastor at Fundbo, 1644-1672, and his sister Kerstin remained in Sweden.

In New Sweden, Olof Stille settled as a freeman at a place called Techogerassi by the Indians, located between present Crum Creek and Ridley Creek (called Olof Stille's Creek). Joining him at this location were his brother Axel Stille and the Lorn family. The Indians were frequent visitors to Techogerassi and liked Olof Stille very much, but they considered his heavy, black beard a monstrosity and conferred a strange name on him because of it.

As the only known mill-maker in the colony, Olof Stille probably was in charge of building the first Swedish gristmill on Mill (now Cobbs) Creek. He also became a leader among the freemen and played a key role in promoting the July 1653 list of grievances, signed by Olof Stille and 21 other freemen, which was submitted to Governor Johan Printz, protesting his dictatorial rule. Printz labeled this action mutiny and promptly left for Sweden. To Olof Stille, however, it was simply exercising the right of free speech. When Governor Rising arrived, Olof asked for a prompt trial. Rising, who took a more kindly view toward the freeman, let the matter drop.



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

July 1653 list of grievances submitted to Governor Printz

Noble and [Highly-born]... Johan Hein...and Council,
Favorable Defender, Propitious Promoter, Your most Humble
and Good-willed servants For as long as we live

1. The noble and highly-born Lord, Sir Governor is hereby most humbly reminded about the conditions under which we live, that we are at no hour or moment secure as to our lives and welfare.
2. Sir Governor has strictly forbidden us with fines and on pain of death to trade with both the heathens (Indians) and Christians, though the highly-born Governor has done this diligently for himself in all places.
3. Sir Governor has forbidden us to fish in the waters, to use the trees, the rye, and the grass on the ground, and to get land from which we could obtain a livelihood.
4. We have built a mill with the help of the Company and maintained it for our use by paying a reasonable fee yet [have been forbidden to use it]
5. Sir Governor has threatened us and said that he [could really do things] to make us weep. An example before our eyes is that of Anders the Finn and the other Finns in Finland and their wives who have lost their minds and been driven from their homes without legal judgment and must now beg for bread with their small children. We don't know why the Governor has done this.
6. Sir Governor says that everything that we own belongs to him, since some among us have debts that we cannot repay.
7. Sir Governor says that on behalf of Her Royal Majesty and the worthy Company we... [could regain our freedom by work and slave labor after careful investigation].
8. ...[Sir Governor has not upheld Law and Justice].
9. For these and other difficulties we are exceedingly forced to send two men to Her Royal Majesty and the Highly-honored Company in the fatherland to know if we are quite cut off, and if we can cultivate the earth or where we shall go since we have no place on land or water where we can obtain a livelihood.
10. Our final request and united obliging petition is that Sir Governor would allow Anders the Finn to keep the forest which Sir Governor has judged [confiscated] until further information [is secured] so that his wife and children will not die of hunger.
11. Upon these written issues, we humbly request Sir Governor to give a favorable resolution.

Mats Hansso(e)n

Olof Stille

Axel Stille

Johan Hwilar [Wheeler]

Hindrick Matsson

Ivar Hindrickson

Måns Andersson

Olof Ericksson

Hindrick Matsson, the Finn

Valerius Loo

Hans Månsson

Peter Jochim

Anders Andersson

Mats Hansson

Per Rambo

Peter Kock

Sven Gunnarson

Anders Hansson

Mårten Mårtenson

Klas Johansson

Johan Fijsk [Fisk]

Lars Thomesson Bross

Note on brackets use: [] indicates interpolated or probable words inserted into gap in copied text.

Source: Volume 5, Number 4, Spring 2015, *The Swedish Colonial Society Journal*

After the surrender of New Sweden, the Dutch governor, Petrus Stuyvesant, agreed to allow the Swedes and Finns living north of the Christina River to govern themselves. The first Swedish court, organized in 1656, had Olof Stille as its chief justice and also included Peter Larsson Cock, Peter Gunnarsson Rambo and Matts Hansson from Borga, Finland.

During his eight years as chief justice of the Swedes' court, there were frequent policy clashes between the Swedes and the Dutch. Olof Stille proved himself to be an able defender of the Swedes' position and usually prevailed.

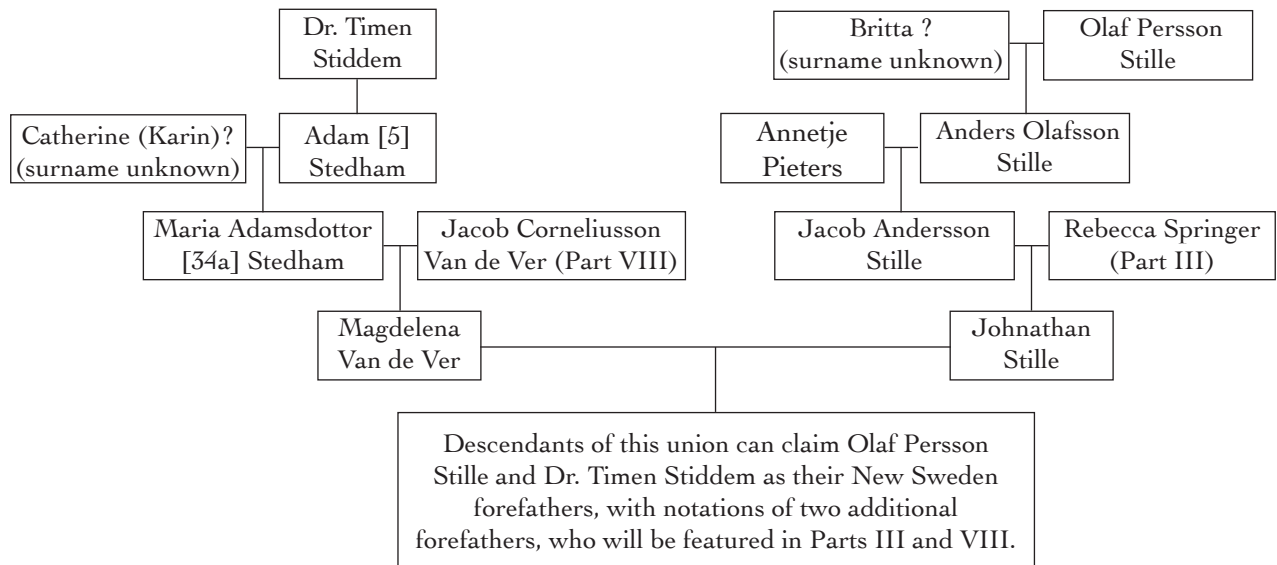
Retiring as chief justice in 1664, Olof Stille moved to Moyamensing (later south Philadelphia) with Lars Andersson Collinus (who had married Mans Lorn's widow) and his son-in-law Marten Roosemond. Even in retirement, he was called upon to arbitrate disputes among the settlers. He died about 1684. He was survived by his brother Axel Stille, who had no children, and four children who have been identified:

1. **Ella Stille**, born in 1634 in Roslagen, married twice. By her first husband, **Peter Jochimsson**, she had two children, Peter Petersson Yocum, born 1652, and Elisabeth Petersdotter, born 1654, who married John Ogle, an English soldier. By her second marriage to **Hans Månsson**, she had six more



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

Pedigree chart linking these New Sweden families



sons, originally known by the patronymic Hansson but later adopting the surname of Steelman. They were John, Jons (James), Christiern, Peter, Charles and Eric. Ella died in 1718 in Gloucester County NJ.

2. Anders Stille, born in 1640 in Roslagen, moved to New Castle about 1658 and married there, by 1671, **Annetje Pieters**, daughter of the Dutch brewer, Pieter Wolfertsen van Couwenhoven. Soon after his marriage, he moved to Christina Creek, taking up residence next to his niece, Elisabeth Petersdottor Ogle. Later, they moved to White Clay Creek in New Castle County, where he died between 1688 and 1692, survived by two sons, John and Jacob [whose son, Johnathan Stille, was the husband of Magdalena Van de Ver, a great-granddaughter of Timen Stiddem], and one daughter thus far identified, Elisabeth, who married Charles Hedges.

3. Christina Stille, born in America c. 1643, became the second wife of **Marten Roosemond**, a Dutch “cleinsmit” (toolmaker), who moved from New Castle to Moyamensing after his marriage. Two landmarks on that property were named Roosemond Creek and Hollanders Creek. Roosemond returned to New Castle before 1671 and served as judge on the New Castle court and deacon of the Dutch church there until his death in 1677.

It is unknown whether Christina had any children.

4. Johan Stille, born in America in 1646, married about 1683 **Gertrude**, daughter of **Marten Gerritsen** and **Christina Lom** of New Castle County. They had twelve children: Christina (born 1684), Anna(1685), Olof [William] (1687), Sarah (1690), John (1692), Brigitta (1693), Barbara(1697), Peter(1699), Gertrude (1701), Morton (1704), Helena (1705) and Allemisha (1709). Johan Stille inherited the Moyamensing plantation, where he died in 1722. His widow died in 1744.

White Clay Creek in New Castle County, Del., where Anders Stille died between 1688 and 1692.

