

The most enduring visible monument of the Swedish era, is the old Swede's church—now an Episcopal church, which was dedicated to the worship of God in 1698, and in which on Sunday last I attended divine service.

This simple but impressive structure is within a few hundred yards of a rock, on the side of the river Christiana, whereon—the tradition is—the Swedes first landed. Around this venerable building are the graves of the Swedish colonists, the terminology of whose names, quaintly carved upon the tombstones attest their national origin, and there

"Each in his narrow cell forever laid,
The rude forefathers of the hamlet sleep."

As your letter tells me that you have a photograph of the church, it may be interesting for you to know that the ivy which covers the southern side was grown from a slip brought from Stoke-Pogis in England, the scene of Gray's immortal "Elegy written in a country churchyard." My mother procured this slip of ivy and had it planted more than half a century ago; her grave is but a few yards distant.

But there are other less palpable, but equally enduring results of Swedish settlement in America—in the fruits of their personal virtues and sacred manly characteristics. I make bold to say that no better stock has been contributed (in proportion to its numbers) towards giving a solid basis to society under our republican forms, than these hardy, honest, industrious, law-abiding, God-fearing Swedish settlers on the banks of the Christiana in Delaware. While I have never heard of a very rich man among them, yet I have never heard of a pauper. I can not recall the name of a statesman or distinguished law-giver among them, nor of a rogue nor a felon. As good citizens they helped to form what Mr. Lincoln called the "plain people" of the country—and I have lived among their descendants, and know their civic virtues have been transmitted.

I am glad to hear that in the great West, and around the marvelous prosperity and growth of such cities as St. Paul and Minneapolis there is a disposition among citizens of Swedish descent to pause in the midst of their gainful and energetic

pursuits, and recall with affection and respect their forefathers, who were among our earliest settlers, and who were indeed the true seed from which honest government is derived.

Yours very respectfully,

T. F. BAYARD.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DELAWARE, }
WILMINGTON, Sept. 3, 1888. }

At a special meeting of the society held Sept. 3, 1888, the following resolutions were adopted:

Resolved, That in friendly recognition of the movement (in Minnesota) Mr. Pennock Pusey is hereby appointed a delegate to represent this society at the proposed celebration at Minneapolis on the fourteenth of September, and to present this greeting from the descendants of the first Swedish settlers to the latest immigrants from the fatherland.

Resolved, that the secretary furnish Mr. Pusey a copy of the above resolutions duly signed and attested with the seal of the society.

R. P. JOHNSON,
Secretary.

ATTEST:

E. G. SHORTLEDGE,
[SEAL.] *Chairman.*

NORTH BROOK, CHESTER CO., PENN., }
Sept. 8, 1888. }

Major Geo. Q. White, St. Paul, Minn.,

MY DEAR SIR: You are doubtless aware of the movement among the Swedish citizens of Minnesota for the celebration of the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the original landing of the Swedes on the Delaware. The people of Wilmington, whose city limits embrace the landing place on the Christiana as well as a later memento of the early settlement in the old Swedes' church, naturally feel an interest in the event and both the city council and the historical society

have taken action in friendly recognition of the movement. The latter have appointed me a delegate to represent their society and present the greeting of the descendants of the first settlers to the latest comers at the celebration in connection with the Minneapolis exposition on the fourteenth inst. at 2 P. M. As I can not arrange matters in time to attend I enclose the attested credentials with the request that you will kindly act as my substitute, for which there is a propriety in your having once been a Wilmingtonian, and I authorize you to appear as fully as though you had been the original appointee. Hoping it may suit your pleasure and convenience to act as desired, which will confer a favor both upon the celebrants and myself, I am

Most respectfully,

PENNOCK PUSEY.

OLD SWEDES' PARSONAGE, }
WILMINGTON, DEL., Sept. 11, 1888. }

To H. Mattson, Esq., Chairman,

MY DEAR SIR: Seated within sight of the spot where the "Pilgrim Fathers" of the American Swedes landed in 1638, and under the shadow of the venerable church which the zeal of Erick Biorck reared in 1698, I write to congratulate you upon the glorious heritage of the American Swedes of to-day. The old church-yard treasures the bones of those whose peaceful conquests went to strengthen the infant sinews of our mighty nation and whose descendants constitute an essential part of Delaware blood and Delaware citizenship of 1888. The sacred walls that echoed to the prayers and exhortations of Tranberg and Acrelius still echo, both week day and Sunday, to the worship of a devout congregation, in that language which all American Swedes have learned to call their own—the all-embracing English tongue.

Thanking you for your courteous invitation, and regretting my inability to be present in person,

I am yours, with sincere respect,

JESSE HIGGINS,

Pastor of the Swedes' Church upon the Christiana.

WILMINGTON, DELAWARE, Sept. 12, 1888.

Hon. H. Mattson, Chairman,

I am pleased to acknowledge the receipt of your especial invitation to attend the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the first Swedish settlement in America to be held at Minneapolis on September 14th.

We received one for the Historical Society of Delaware and I, with the assistance of other members, had a special meeting called and credited one of our members, Pennock Pusey, as a representative of our society.

The descendants of the early Swedes with us are a very desirable part of our community, a credit to any people.

Most respectfully,

H. R. BINGHURST,

Treasurer of the Historical Society of Delaware.

PHILADELPHIA, Sept. 8, 1888.

Hon. H. Mattson, Chairman,

DEAR SIR: It gives me pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your polite invitation to attend the celebration of the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the first Swedish settlement in America to be held the fourteenth inst., and I desire to express my high appreciation of the honor conferred. Regretting my inability to be otherwise present, I shall join you, at least, in spirit in commemorating an event even more significant to descendants of the old settlers on the Delaware than to their prosperous fellow-countrymen, who have imitated their example in seeking homes in our great West.

Permit me on my own behalf and that of my family to offer you cordial congratulations in anticipation of the success of your felicitous association, of your own vast colonization of our noble country with the small though brave beginnings of the founders of New Sweden under Gustavus Adolphus and Christina, and to give utterance on this occasion to the hope that among the numerous influences destined to mould the

future of our land, not the least potent and beneficent shall prove to be the generous impulses and honorable lives of worthy scions of our Scandinavian race.

Very respectfully yours,

GREGORY B. KEEN.

WILMINGTON, DEL., Sept. 8, 1888.

Mr. Mattson:

In looking over the newspaper this morning I found an article concerning your proposed anniversary celebration. Please accept from an humble mechanic a few lines of facts concerning the Swedes that started their colony on the Delaware in 1638. I am not a descendant of the Swedes but have a lasting good feeling for them and their descendants which we still have among us and our best citizens they are. The Swedes brought wheat with them and the grain raised by them from it was never disgraced by being made into fermented liquor from the beginning in 1638 up to the present time. Blessed industries have been the result of the Swedish labor. The emperor of Brazil now rides in a palace railroad car built only two hundred yards from where the Swedes first landed, and cars from the same shops carry kings and emperors from Paris to St. Petersburg. Delaware on the Brandywine is the birth place of the paper machine and on Christiana river are now built fine steam and sailing ships which plow the oceans of the world. We have a score of other useful manufactories founded, many of them, by the industry of the old Swedes.

With much respect,

A. C. BRINTON.

MAYOR'S OFFICE, WILMINGTON, DEL.,
Sept. 11, 1888. }

Hon. H. Mattson,

MY DEAR SIR: On receipt of your letter of September 3d, kindly inclosing invitation to your celebration of next Friday, I immediately communicated the same to "The Council" and herewith I enclose the resolutions adopted by it, together with a letter and sketch prepared by Dr. Horace Burr, of this city.

I regret that the distance renders it impossible for me to be present at the anniversary, but you have my best wishes for its entire success and for a most enjoyable time to your people. I am, with kindest regards,

Yours very sincerely,

AUSTIN HARRINGTON,
Mayor.

WHEREAS, the council of the city of Wilmington have been advised that a celebration of the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the first Swedish settlement in America will be held in the city of Minneapolis on September 14th, and being desirous of showing their appreciation of the object of this gathering, therefore be it

Resolved, That the council in behalf of their fellow citizens, many of whom are descended from Swedish ancestry, send cordial greeting to those who are met to celebrate the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the landing of the first Swedish colonists on the historic ground, included within the limits of our city.

Resolved, that we reflect the general sentiment of this community in the expression of our sincere appreciation of the many excellent traits of character of those who come to us from the famous old Northland, and our just estimation of them as a valuable addition to the population of our country.

Resolved, That Dr. Horace Burr, to whom our citizens are indebted for careful and extensive research into the history of the early Swedish settlements in this state, be requested to

prepare an appropriate historical sketch, and that the same be transmitted together with a copy of these resolutions to the coming celebration.

On behalf of council,

PRESTON AYARS,
CHAS. A. RYAN,
SAMUEL CHAMBERS,
BENJ. F. DAVIS,
E. C. MOORE,
J. C. FARRA,
Committee.

ATTEST:

A. F. MESSICK,
Clerk of Council.

Hon. Hans Mattson,

DEAR SIR: The history of the Swedish colonists on the Delaware is mainly religious. For some years after their arrival services were held in the block house or fort at Christiana (Wilmington), and later also at Tennekong up the river. They buried their dead on a side hill in the rear of the present Swedes' church and it was set partly in the cemetery. After some years they built a timber church on the south side of the Christiana, on a point of land called Crane-hook, which was used till the present Holy Trinity church was dedicated in 1699. The Swedes were a religious folk and almost exclusively engaged in agriculture. Their settlements extended on both sides of the Delaware, on the west side from St. George on the south to the falls of the Delaware on the north, and on the east side from Pumpkin Hook on the south to above Raccoon creek on the north and along the Christiana, Brandywine and other creeks on the west side and Ruteoug (Swedesburg) on the east. The mode of travel in attending church and social visiting was mostly by water in log canoes and when the church was built on the north side of the Christiana the folk on the north side made a present of a new canoe to those on the south side and those who crossed over

from Jersey to New Castle and walked up on the west side of the Delaware, as they thought it would be hard for them to pay ferriage every time they came to church, which canoe was bought for twenty shillings. The Delaware is very broad here and often tempestuous, and finally as they became able, two timber churches were built on the east side, one on Penn's Neck (Pumpkin Hook), and one at Raccoon creek (Swedesburg). The church here is in good repair and services are held regularly in it with a good congregation. The present church wardens and vestrymen are in regular succession from those elected before the present church was built and among members of the vestry are direct descendants from the original Swedish settlers.

The churchyard is still used as a place of sepulture by the descendants of the Swedes and others and is kept in good condition. The records of the church are very full and interesting, and especially during Mr. Bjork's pastorate, amount to a full diary of events connected with the church, schools, etc. I have translated all the records and they are to be published by the Delaware Historical Society soon. I send you a copy of the original old Swedish of the account of the dedication of the church, but have written in Roman characters and not in the old Swedish or monkish. It has been scribbled off in haste but I think you will manage to read it.

I remain with respect,

Yours sincerely,

HORACE BURR,

Senior Warden of the Swedes' Lutheran church, called Trinity church, Wilmington, Del.

In behalf of the mayor and council of the city of Wilmington.

Account of the consecration of Holy Trinity Church by the Rev. Erik Björk.

Anno 1699 Helga Trefalg:s Sondag ellor 4 July. Lät Gud af sin nåd uplyssa dhen dag mig och Forsamlingen för vår mödo och om kostnadt at wij då fingo giöra vårt första inträda uti vår Kyrka på Christina som skedde i mång hundrade persones närvaro af åtskillige Religioner jempte våre egne- da sielfwer Invigslen sålunda skedde. Sedan dhet war sammanringt gick min Medbroder från ander församlingen Mag Andreas Rudman tillika med mig klädde i hwar sin Mässe Särk utan mässhakar efter wi dhem här intet kunda skaffa, för Altaret tillika med vår medbroder Ahrwordige Herr Jonas Aureen allenast med lång kappa och krage då Magister Rudman och jag stannade i bred nämst Altaret, men Hr Aureen fram för oss och börjde sålunda Mag, Rudman 1. Kommer här och låter oss Herren Gud prisa

2. En böön af honom Sielf giord at Gud wille låte sig detta huus behaga-etc

Hr: Aureen 3 Läste i Reg. 8, hela kaputel.

Pastor Loci 4 Dhen 24 koning Dav, ps. heel

Hr: Aureen 5 of Nöja Test. 10 Cap: helti

„ 6 Sungo Fader vår som i Hmblom äst-etc

Mag: Rud: 7 Läste med hög och långsam röst Helig som dhet i kyrkio ordningen för et sådant tillfälle står infört

„ 8 Kom Helge Ande Herre Gud-etc

Mag: Rud: 9 Dhen på sjelfve Invignings predikan på predikestolen hwars begynnelse war Job: 12 —7 konungars och förstars råd och hemlighet skal man föetiga etc. men sielfwer texten psalm CXXVI:V, 3-Herren hafv giordt stoor ting med oss dhess år. wij glade och kyrkian nampn Helge Trefaldighets Kyrkia

„ 10 af predikstolen bejinte O Gud wij lofve dig etc.

„ 11 Då iag och Mag: Rudman allena gingo för altaret igen Sang Mag: Rudman en böön och dherpå i valsighelsen

Mag: Rud: 12 med en förmaning at nu hålla och vörda dhetta hus som et Herrans huus etc. dher på: Ähra ware Fadrenom och Sonenom och dhen Helge Anda

Pastor Loci Svarade: Såsom dhet warit haf af begynnelsen etc. Ocg dhetta salunda sielfva invigslen.

I Högmässen Christnades Barn och utdelte Herrans natward

Då åter iag med min medbroder Mag: Rudman stodo för Altaret, men dhen andra min medbroder Ährwurdige Hr Aureen predikade Söndag texten hvilken skedde såsom handboken innehåller da dhess psalmer brukades

1 Alleneste Gud etc. 2 O Fader vår barmhertig och God etc. 3 Till pred:st Nu bider wij dhen Helge And 4 på predikestolen Helge Trefaldighet stat oss bij, 5 under Communion Jesus är mit lif och hälssa etc. 6 efter wälsighelsen min själ skal lofva Herran etc, etc.

Sedan bespisades på Christina hos Kyrkiowerden John Stal-cop alla dhe förnämsta af dhe fremandende så gjörligen som skee kunde at få dhem tillhopa med mat öhl och wijn, og sedan efter åt dhe andre hwilken omkostnad war framskuten af församhlingen som dhe upsat wijsur.

Contributions for the entertainment of the strangers:

Staffan Jöransion 3 quarter af eet får og 1 bush. malt.

Änken på pumpon huken 1 bushel malt smör 3 pund

Anders Vainam og Ankiary Carsten huk tillhopa malt 1½ bushels

Jöran Liken Smör 3 pund 2 loaves bröd 1 tiog ägg

Edward Meewin Rödt Wijn 1 Gallon hjort kiöt en quarter ägg og kaffe.

Hendrick Stöbey hwete Miöl en päck og 1 tiog ägg

Erik på Trandhuken Gul Wijn 2 Gals og 3 p. Socker

Brewer Seuske etc får og bush malt

Charles Springer 1½ bush: malt

Hans Rettergren et får og en bush: malt

Sahl, Jacob Clamets Ankia ½ calf a 7 S: 6 p:

Petter Mounsson og John Mounson tillhopa 1 Seppa wheat Miöl

Petter Mounsson 4 p. smör

John Anderson Koks 1 kalkon

John Stalcop 1 bush: malt $1\frac{1}{2}$ bush: Whete Miöl 3 pund Socker
rafin 2 S. 6 p. humbla för 3 S. 5 p.

Petter Stalcop $\frac{1}{2}$ får

Hend: John $\frac{1}{2}$ får

Armund Stedham 1 får

Dhesutan John Stalcops hustrus egit omak då hon elliest at så
mycket hederligen komma ut med all tilredning anlita en En-
gelskmans bustru på andra sidan riveret wid namn Ann Pittman
som mycket brukades i slijke tillfällen dhen og sit omak för intet
tillät.

ST. PAUL, MINN., }
Sept. 8, 1888. }

Col. H. Mattson, Chairman of Committee on Invitation, Etc.,

MY DEAR SIR: I regret very much that circumstances prevent my having the honor to accept your invitation to attend the celebration of the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of Swedish settlement in America. I am fully in sympathy with my Swedish-American fellow citizens on this interesting occasion. More than a quarter of a century of acquaintance with them in peace and in war, also several years' acquaintance with their mother country, enables me to appreciate their feelings on this memorable anniversary. Sweden, though somewhat isolated, has maintained alignment with the most advanced constitutional countries of Europe in all that contributes to a high order of civilization. With the exception of England there are very few European countries which in modern times have furnished so many names that are familiar and dear to Americans, in heroism, in science, in literature and in song. With best wishes for the success of the proposed celebration,

I remain sincerely yours,

C. C. ANDREWS.

ST. PAUL, Sept. 5, 1888.

Hon. H. Mattson and Others, Committee,

GENTLEMEN: I am in receipt of your very kind invitation to be present at Minneapolis at the celebration of the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the first Swedish settlement in America, for which please accept my thanks. Before receiving it I had engaged to attend the re-union of my old regiment (the 7th Minnesota), set for the same day and hour as your celebration. It is the first opportunity I have had for several years to meet the survivors of my old comrades (now becoming less every year), with whom I served over two years in the civil war, and I have come to think it almost a sacred duty to meet them on every occasion now when I can. No consideration less weighty would constrain me to decline an invitation to be present at the celebration of so important an event in the history of this country as the settling upon its eastern shore of the first Swedish colony. I have always regarded it as a fortunate thing that the first colonies were from so various sources. The English puritans in the New England states, the Dutch in New York, the Quakers in Pennsylvania, the Swedes in New Jersey, the English Catholics in Maryland, the English cavaliers in Virginia, the Scotch Highlanders in North Carolina, the Huguenots in South Carolina; these have intermingled and combined to give one characteristic to America, that of a broad, liberal tolerance, a characteristic which I hope it will ever retain, and in making which a part of the national character the first Swedish settlers and their descendants have done their share. With thanks for your kindness and regret that I am so placed that I am unable to avail myself of it, I am, gentlemen,

Yours very gratefully,

JAMES GILFILLAN.