Delaware Tercentenary

Official Program of the Celebration
June 27, 1938 · Wilmington, Delaware

Price 25 Cents
March 1638

Fort Christina

H.M. Christina, Queen of Sweden (1632-1654) during whose reign New Sweden was founded.

H.M. Gustavus Adolphus, King of Sweden (1611-1632) through whose support New Sweden became a possibility.

In December 1637, the Swedish Expedition, under Peter Minuit, sailed from Sweden in the ship, "Kalmar Nyckel" and the yacht, "Fogel Grip," and finally reached the "Rocks" in March 1638. Here Minuit made a treaty with the Indians and, with a salute of two cannons, claimed for Sweden all that land from the Christina River down to Bombay Hook.

The Cover

Here is reproduced the famous painting by Stanley M. Arthurs, Esq., of the landing of the first Swedish expedition at the "Rocks." The painting is owned by Joseph S. Wilson, Esq.
H. M. Gustaf V, King of Sweden, during whose reign, in 1938, the tercentenary of the founding of New Sweden is celebrated.

Hon. Wollmar Filip Bostrom, Swedish Minister to the United States.
June 27, 1938

Wilmington

H. R.H. Gustaf Adolf, Crown Prince of Sweden, who, 300 years after the founding of New Sweden, leads the official Swedish Commission in its visit to America.

H. R.H. Louise, Crown Princess of Sweden, who, with her husband, the Crown Prince, heads the Swedish Commission in its visit to Delaware’s Tercentenary.

M. S. Kungsholm, flagship of the Swedish-American Line, which brings the Crown Prince and the Crown Princess of Sweden and members of the Royal Swedish Commission, together with the official Commission of the Republic of Finland and tourists of Sweden and Finland to America, landing at Wilmington, Delaware, June 27, 1938.

H. His Excellency the President of the Republic of Finland, Kyösti Kallio, whose people 300 years ago took part in the founding of New Sweden and whose people today come to Delaware.
Hon. Franklin Delano Roosevelt, President of the United States, who officially receives, on the part of the people of the United States, the commemorative monument at Fort Christina Park in Wilmington from H.R.H. Gustaf Adolf, Crown Prince of Sweden, who presents the monument as a gift of the people of Sweden to the people of the United States.

Hon. Cordell S. Hull, Secretary of State, first member of the cabinet of the President of the United States, who makes the keynote speech at Delaware’s Tercentenary Celebration, June 27, 1938.

Photo Harris & Ewing.
Above—Hon. Richard C. McMullen, Governor of the State of Delaware.
At Right—Hon. Walter W. Bacon, Mayor of the City of Wilmington, Delaware.

Below, a partial view of the historic building at Dover, which is the State House of Delaware.

Below—The County and City Building in Wilmington, Delaware.
FORT CHRISTINA
State Park

Officially Dedicated
June 27, 1938
The Monument
Given by the
People of Sweden
to the people
of the
UNITED STATES

This monument, executed in Swedish black granite, is a gift of the people of Sweden to the people of the United States. It was designed and executed by Carl Milles, world-famous Swedish sculptor.

The monument was paid for by popular subscription in Sweden, the number of subscribers being more than 200,000, representing the small and great, the rich and poor of the people of Sweden.

The monument stands about 25 feet high. The shaft displays a number of bas reliefs, showing scenes typical of the Swedish colonization period. It is surmounted by a stylized representation of a wave bearing "Kalmar Nyckel," the ship which brought the first Swedish settlers to America.

It is the focal element in the new Fort Christina State Park—a permanent symbol of the friendship between Sweden and the United States.
organized for trading and colonization in the Delaware valley. There were 23 Swedish soldiers on board under the command of Captain Mans Nilsson Kling, Peter Minuit from Amsterdam, was in general command of the expedition. On March 29th Minuit bought from the Indians, for "a kettle and other trifles," all the land from the Christina River, so called by them in honor of their queen, Christina, the exact spot of landing being a shelf of rocks a mile or two above the river's mouth.

These ships constituted an expedition sent out from Sweden by the New Sweden Company, which had been organized for trading and colonization in the Delaware valley. There were 23 Swedish soldiers on board under Captain Mans Nilsson Kling, Peter Minuit from Amsterdam, was in general command of the expedition.

On March 29th Minuit bought from the Indians, for "a kettle and other trifles," all the land from the Christina down to Bombay Hook and the men began building a stockade enclosing two log houses for the garrison and their supplies. Minuit left with the two vessels in June, but the 23 soldiers and their officers remained. Land was cleared, barley and wheat were sown, corn was planted, a supply of fish, venison and other game was salted and smoked and the little colony settled itself for a long stay.

Two full years passed before these lonely settlers had any news from home. It was not until April 1640, that "Kalmar Nyckel" again appeared in the Delaware. She brought a few new colonists, domestic animals, supplies and a governor, a Dutchman, Peter Hollandaer, for the colony which they had named New Sweden; also a clergyman, Rev. Reorus Torkillus. In October 1641, the old "Kalmar Nyckel" and the ship "Charitas" brought the third expedition, 35 more colonists, more supplies, animals and farming tools. The colony was now doing well.

In February 1643, two new ships came over. The most important new arrival then was a new governor, Lieut. Col. Johan Printz. In this man's hands for the next ten years rested the entire government of the province of New Sweden, whose boundaries now included the whole west shore of the Delaware River and Bay from Sankikan (Trenton) to Cape Henlopen and the east shore from Raccoon Creek to Cape May.

Printz was a huge man. He is said to have weighed 400 pounds. He was also a vigorous, headstrong, masterful person, endowed with intelligence, shrewdness, administrative ability and personal bravery. He began at once to establish his authority over his territory, building a fort on the Jersey shore near Salem, and blockhouses at the mouth of the Schuylkill and Upland (Chester). On Tinicum Island he built a fort and an official residence for himself. Fort Christina was rebuilt and made the principal storehouse. It was also the only port of entry to which all ships came during the whole existence of New Sweden as a province of old Sweden.

The Dutch had been first on the River, as traders with the Indians rather than as settlers. They now saw their claims to ownership of its shores flouted. Time and again they sought to intrude, only to be affronted and driven off by this domineering Swede. The English, also claiming the territory by virtue of John Cabot's discovery of the mainland in America in 1497, came down more than once from New England and attempted settlement, but met with the same relentless and effective opposition. During his whole reign as practically absolute monarch of New Sweden, Printz was in conflict with these two other nations, much stronger in their American colonies than was he.

By the year 1645, by new arrivals, the population of the colony had grown to 98 men and a few women and children, but three years later there were but 79 men, the decrease resulting from death, the return home of a number and but few new arrivals. An expedition sent out from Sweden in 1649 met with shipwreck in the West Indies and none of its company reached the colony.

With this handful of men Printz could not expect to cope successfully with the equally vigorous and headstrong governor of the Dutch colony in New Amsterdam, Pieter Stuyvesant, if the Dutchman made a determined effort to establish himself on the Delaware, which he did.

In 1653 Stuyvesant came down from the north with an expedition of 11 ships and 120 soldiers and built himself a fort, called Casimir, where New Castle now stands, garrisoned it and went back home. Printz could do nothing but bite his nails in chagrin. He was tired of his new job by now. Two or three times he had tried to resign only to have Queen Christina tell him she needed him where he was. It was a hard task she set him, and she gave him no valid support. Between the years 1648 and 1653 no new expedition arrived, no news came from home. True, one had been dispatched in 1649; but, as has been stated, it never arrived at Fort Christina, nor had Printz any news of it. So for five years he could feel only that he was abandoned by the home government. No one could blame...
him for his decision in 1653 to give up his job. In October of that year he took ship at New Amsterdam for a homeward journey. The irony of the situation lies in the fact that at that very time the greatest expedition, in number of new colonists and bulk of supplies, was preparing to set out from Gothenburg for New Sweden.

Johan Rising was in command, with orders to act as assistant to Printz, if he was still there, or, if he had left, to take over the governorship. With him in two ships, the “Gyllene Haj” and the “Orn,” were over 300 new settlers and soldiers. They sailed from Sweden in February 1655, and it was May 1655, 107 days out from their home-port, when they entered the Delaware. The voyage had been really dreadful. Beset by storms, driven from their course and all through the last two months ravaged by a plague that killed over a hundred of their number, their condition was pitiful beyond measure. Yet Rising had sufficient resolution to stop opposite Fort Casimir on his way up the River and, backed only by a company of plague-ridden scarecrows, to demand the fort's surrender. Fortunately the garrison of Casimir comprised only 12 soldiers and, most potent fact of all, though they had cannon and muskets, they entirely lacked powder. The fort was surrendered on demand, the Swedish flag hoisted above it and it was re-named Fort Trefaldighet (Trinity).

Landing his woe-begone ship’s company at Christina, where good food and fresh water soon recruited their strengths, Rising found himself governor over a colony of 368 souls. New living quarters were needed and now the first real town came into being, close behind the fort. Regular streets, crossing at right angles, were surveyed and laid out and houses built. It was called Christinahamn. This may be considered the infant City of Wilmington, though, of course, the settlement 15 years earlier was its earliest beginning.

With this considerable addition to its population, backed by the extensive clearings already made, the farms already established and fostered by new clearings and new farms soon under way, it seemed that New Sweden was a lusty child, rid of its swaddling clothes and destined for a vigorous manhood. But the Dutch had not said their last word in the matter.

In 1655, Governor Stuyvesant, of New Amsterdam, under orders from his home government in old Amsterdam, undertook to recover his lost ground on the River and to do even more. The Swedish government there was to be broken and the Dutch flag to fly over all.

In September of that year a truly formidable armament appeared opposite old Fort Casimir. Seven ships of war, varying in size from the great flagship “Waegh” to the little flyboat “Liefde,” with about 350 fighting men, confronted the commander of the fort, Lieut. Sven Skute and his garrison of 25 or 30. Resistance was hopeless and useless. The fort was given up.

At Christina Governor Rising declined immediate surrender. But, when Stuyvesant had established batteries on land and warships in the river, completely surrounding the fort, and had maintained a ten-day siege, meanwhile burning Christinahamn and ravaging the farms round about, Rising realized his helplessness and he, too, capitulated. For the next nine years the Dutch ruled all that had been New Sweden. But the Swedes remained. Tilling their farms, clearing more ground for more extended agriculture, raising large families and all working early and late, the Swedes persisted. Under Swedish, Dutch or English government, the Swedes were there to stay and no one ever did dislodge them.

MUSIC BY THE UNITED STATES MARINE BAND

(Note—Admission to the Park only by ticket)


(Attendance limited to Swedish and Finnish Official Delegations and Swedish Tourists)
AM OF EVENTS
Wilmington, Delaware, June 27, 1938

1:00 P. M. Luncheon at Delaware State Armory, 11th and DuPont Streets, for Swedish Tourists.

1:30 P. M. Luncheon at Hotel duPont for Official Swedish and Finnish Delegations and invited guests.

3:00 P. M. Addresses in Rodney Square by H.R.H. Gustaf Adolf, Crown Prince of Sweden, Hon. Cordell Hull, Secretary of State of the United States, and Dr. E. Rudolf W. Holsti, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Finland, Hon. Thomas F. Bayard, President of the Delaware Tercentenary Commission, presiding.

4:00 P. M. Parade of floats depicting the history of Delaware, and important industrial organizations.

(This concludes the public exercises for the day)

7:00 P. M. Lawn party at Longwood for the Official Swedish and Finnish Delegations and invited guests.

* Alteration of this program by reason of unforeseen contingencies may occur.

Below—Landing of Governor Johann Printz, at Fort Christina, 1643. Painted by Stanley M. Arthurs, Esq.
At left—The two kronor coin issued by the Swedish Government in commemoration of the Swedish-American Tercentenary, for sale at $1.00 by Swedish-American Tercentenary Association, 630 Fifth Avenue, New York City.

At right—Swedish medal, showing "Kalmar Nyckel" and a map of the early settlements, obtainable from Swedish-American Tercentenary Association.

At left—Spode Dinner Plates—issued by the Delaware Tercentenary Commission, Wilmington, Delaware, in six designs: Old Court House at New Castle; Old Swedes Church, Wilmington; Old College, Newark, Delaware; Zwaanendael House, Lewes, Delaware; State House, Dover, Delaware; and Old Town Hall, Wilmington, Delaware.
At right—Commemorative Half-dollar, issued by the United States Government. 25,000 of these, the entire issue, were purchased by the Delaware Tercentenary Commission. These coins are for sale at Equitable Trust Company, Wilmington, Delaware, at $1.75 each.

At left—Delaware Tercentenary Medal, executed in silver and bronze. Obtainable from Delaware Tercentenary Commission, Wilmington, Delaware, $7.50 for the silver medal; $2.50 for the bronze medal. Also obtainable in a small copy of the bronze medal at 50c.

A commemorative 3c stamp issued by the U.S. Post Office Department on June 27, 1938, first sale being made in Wilmington on that day.

At right—Map of Wilmington, Delaware, as it is today, with authentic historical information, prepared as commemorative of the Delaware Tercentenary.
WILMINGTON and DELAWARE

Today

Wilminton, today, is a thriving, fast-growing city with a population of approximately 112,000 within its corporate limits and an immediate estimated suburban population of 60,000. It is highly industrial, may be truly called the "Chemical Capital of America," and its manufactured products cover practically every industry. It is world-famous as a leather, car and shipbuilding, fibre, textile, paper and paper machinery, airplane-making center. It is well served by all modes of transportation, including its own marine terminal, 3 railroads, 2 airports and the finest highways.

Wilmington is governed by a Mayor and "The Council," elected by popular vote for two-year periods. The assessed valuation of Wilmington real estate is $149,395,800. Wilmington is known for its very low fire record and the efficiency of its Department of Public Safety. Its public school property is valued at over nine million dollars and its educational system stands high. It boasts today of 907 acres of beautiful parkland, 135 churches of all denominations, 21 hotels, 15 banks and 15 building and loan associations, four modern public hospitals, a fine public library and a new art center.

Delaware, today, as it always has been, is basically an agricultural state. Of a total land area of 1,257,600 acres, 921,251 acres are devoted to farm lands. Its mild climate and rich soil make it ideal for diversified crops and practically all farm commodities are produced commercially in the state.

Delaware is outstanding: for the prominent part it has played and is playing in United States history; for its rich resources in land and water; for its splendid systems of public schools and highways; for its efficient, low cost government; for the soundness of its financial institutions; for its favorable tax situation, which has attracted individuals and industry and which has been, in addition to other factors, an important one in the rapid growth of the state.

Appreciation is expressed to Delaware State Board of Agriculture and Wilmington Chamber of Commerce for use of photographs.

Dual Highway, typical of Delaware's fine roads
On these pages and the following one are to be found illustrations which show in a partial way, a cross section of life in Delaware in 1938, covering civic, historical, educational, industrial, agricultural, recreational and general phases.
While necessarily incomplete they typify the sound progressiveness of Delaware today, which has been gained through a happy balance of industry, agriculture and good government over a long period of years.
Wilkinson's thriving Marine Terminal at the junction of the Christina and the Delaware.

State Welfare Home, Smyrna

Historic Old Court House, New Castle

Picturesque Rockford Water Tower

The Christina is lined with industry

Westover Hills, Residential Section, Wilmington
PUBLICATIONS

issued or approved
by the

DELAWARE TERCENTENARY
COMMISSION


"History of Old Swedes Church at Wilmington," by Charles M. Curtis and Charles Lee Reese, Jr., telling the story of the building of the church and of its subsequent enlargements and reparations, fully illustrated with photographs, bound in cloth and for sale at $1.00 a copy.

Three monographs on certain phases of Delaware history, "Colonial Military Organization in Delaware, 1638-1736," by Leon deValinger, Jr., "Early Colonial Taxation in Delaware," by M. M. Daugherty, and "Delaware, the First State in the Union," by George H. Ryden, in pamphlet form at 50c each, or the three publications bound together in cloth and for sale at $1.50 a copy.

Pictorial Map of Delaware, in full color, designed by Jacob Riegel, Jr., showing an authentic map of the State with an ornamental border, depicting the coats of arms of Sweden, the Netherlands, England and the United States; soldiers of their respective periods; portraits of Johann Printz, Peter Stuyvesant, James, Duke of York; drawings of 32 historical buildings and many other embellishments. Size 19" x 25", for sale at $1.00 each.
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Early Map

of Delaware