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## Early Swedes on St. Eustatius

Henry B. Hoff

In examining the published marriage records of the island of St. Eustatius in the Netherlands West Indies for the years 1710–1749, I have come across references to three Swedes who married on the island in the middle of the eighteenth century. The references are to be found in *Trouwboek Gereform. Gemeente St. Eustatius 1710–49* (published as *Zesde Jaarverslag van het Geschied Taal-, Landen Volkundig-Genootschap*, Amsterdam, 1903).

There is no marriage date for the first entry, only the betrothal date. For the other two, both betrothal and marriage dates are given. An extract in translation of the references follows:

P. 56, No. 177, March 17, 1742

Louren Matthison Algerus,<sup>1</sup> born in Kalmar in Sweden, was betrothed to Catharina -----.

P. 76, No. 270, July 27, 1747

Direk Blomm, bachelor sailor, a native of Karlskrona in Sweden, was betrothed to Maria Barens, the widow of Laurentz Sonderberg. She was born on the island of Curaçao. They were married Aug. 13, 1747.

P. 77, No. 273, August 21, 1747

Pieter Andriessen, bachelor sailor, a native of Gothenburg in Sweden, was betrothed to Elisabeth Hassell, born on the island of Saba. They were married Sept. 10, 1747.

St. Eustatius, Curaçao and Saba are all islands in the Caribbean, part of what is today known as the Netherlands Antilles.

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<sup>1</sup> A Swedish student, Laurentius M. Algerus from the island of Öland, directly across from the city of Kalmar, matriculated at the University of Uppsala on July 7, 1737, at which time it was stated that he was born in 1715. He belonged to the student group which hailed from Kalmar *län* and its register notes that Algerus went to the West Indies but subsequently settled down in Philadelphia as a merchant. He ultimately returned to Sweden and settled down in Pölsebo, Lundby Parish (Göt.). The parish register notes that he was a mill owner (*brukspatron*). His wife, Catharina Hassel or Hazell, born in St. Eustatius Jan. 9, 1718, died in Pölsebo Sept. 18, 1790. Her husband moved to the city of Helsingborg, where he died Jan. 19, 1800. — [Otto Edelstam], *Kalmar Nations i Uppsala medlemmar 1663–1903* (Uppsala, 1904), p. 8; "Lundby Parish Records", Göteborg *Landsarkiv*; Elise Åhsberg, "Samling av anteckningar ur legala notiser i Göteborgstidningar 1774–1933". Vol. I, 1774–1840, p. 1, Göteborg *Landsarkiv*; E. Lagerheim, "Giftermåls-och Döds-annonser afskrifne ur *Inrikes Tidningar* för tiden 26/11 1760 t.o.m. 1800", Göteborg *Landsarkiv*; A. B. Carlsson, *Uppsala Universitets Matrikel*, Vol. II, 1700–1750 (Uppsala, 1919–1923), p. 271. — *Editor*.