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Death of Catherine Åhman in Boston

In Henry B. Hoff's study on early Swedes on St. Eustatius (see *SAG*, Sept. 1984)¹ reference is made to Aaron Åhman's first wife, Catherine Pouthalier Duchesac, whom he married on St. Barthélemy 18 Nov. 1787. Åhman remarried on 22 June 1796 Dame Elizabeth Z. Doncker, the first Mrs. Åhman presumably having died in the meanwhile. An examination of the *Index of Deaths in Massachusetts Centinel and Columbia Centinel 1784-1840* reveals that Catherine Åhman died in Boston in 1791.² Her obituary in the *Columbia Centinel* 10 Sept. 1791 has the following wording:

"In this town on Thursday morning (8 Sept.) Madam Catherine Åhman, aged 35, consort of the Secretary of the Island of St. Bartholomew. Her funeral will move *precisely* at 4 o'clock, this afternoon from the house of Mr. John Bean, No. 23, Union-Street, opposite the Blue-Ball, to the Trinity Church, where the service will be performed by the Rev. Dr. Parker. Those who wish to shew respect to strangers, are desired to attend."³

The records of the Trinity Church of Boston for 1728-1830 corroborate this information.⁴

¹Henry B. Hoff, "Additional Early Swedes on St. Eustatius" in *Swedish American Genealogist*, Vol. IV, No. 3, Sept. 1984, pp. 118-121.

²*Index of Deaths in Massachusetts Centinel and Columbia Centinel 1784-1840*, typescript prepared by the Antiquarian Society of Worcester, MA.

³*The Columbia Centinel* (Boston, MA), 10 Sept. 1791.

⁴*The Records of Trinity Church, Boston 1728-1830*, edited by Andrew Oliver and James Bishop Peabody (Boston 1982). Vol. 56 of *The Publications of the Colonial Society of Massachusetts*, p. 805.

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Long Generations

Referring again to the subject of long generations note should be made of a Swedish case from the 17th and 18th centuries and beginning of the 19th. According to Elgenstierna,¹ Urban Hjärne, famous Swedish physician and author, was born in Skvorits in the Baltic states, where his father at one time was Swedish clergyman in the city of Nyen (today where Leningrad is situated). In his three marriages Urban Hjärne had a total of 25 children. His youngest son, Gustaf Adolf Hjärne, was born in Stockholm in 1715, when the father was 74 years old. When the son died in 1805, there was a difference of 164 years between the birth of the father and the death of the son, a most notable record. When Gustaf Adolf Hjärne's daughter, Gustava Fredrika Hjärne died in 1817, only twelve years after her father, the total years spanning three generations amounted to 176 years.

¹Gustav Elgenstierna, *Den introducerade svenska adelns ättartavlor*, III, pp. 634-635, 641.