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## Literature

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# Literature

**The Rambo Family Tree: Descendants of Peter Gunnarson Rambo, 1611-1986**, by Beverly Nelson Rambo. Published by Anundsen Publishing Co., Decorah, IA, 1986. Book orders should be addressed to the author, 4606 Maytime Lane, Culver City, CA 90230. 969 pp., including name index of 20,000 names; 8½ x 11" clothbound; \$39.00 plus \$2.50 mailing costs.

On the eve of the 350th anniversary of the founding of New Sweden in America, it is fitting that a comprehensive genealogy should be published about one of the colony's most illustrious settlers, Peter Gunnarsson Rambo.

Peter Gunnarsson Rambo (1611-1698) was a 28-year-old bachelor when he boarded the *Kalmar Nyckel* at Gothenburg for that ship's second voyage to America—the first to carry permanent settlers. Hired initially as a laborer for the New Sweden Company, Rambo soon became a freeman and in 1648 married Brita Mattsdotter from Vasa, Finland, which was then part of Sweden. He was one of the Swedes settling in an area that would later become Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and served on the court sitting at Tinicum Island and (later) at Upland for 29 years, first under Swedish rule and later under the rule of the Dutch and the English. Retiring from the court in 1680, Rambo became one of the elder statesmen of the Swedish community on the Delaware. William Penn, after his arrival in 1682, was a frequent visitor at Rambo's plantation on the east bank of the Schuylkill River. Rambo's 1684 affidavit recounting the early history of New Sweden proved to be important evidence in Penn's successful litigation against Lord Baltimore of Maryland involving their rival claims to the present state of Delaware.

Peter Rambo brought with him from Sweden the apple seeds that resulted in the propagation of the well-known Rambo apple. After his death in 1698 he left behind four married sons and two married daughters who, by Beverly Rambo's analysis, provided Peter and Brita Rambo with 49 grandchildren and at least 153 great grandchildren. According to her book, about 85 Rambo descendants fought for the Union Army in the Civil War and about the same number of Rambo descendants fought for the Confederacy.

This genealogy is extremely well done, handsomely bound in green and gold, and printed on 8½ by 11 inch pages in easily readable form. It deals extensively with the life and times of Peter Rambo and takes care to document the reported facts with 572 footnotes. Although it is inevitable in a work of this scope that not all descendants are reported, Beverly Rambo has sought to include all known descendants (including female lines) down to the current 10th, 11th and 12th generations.

Beverly Rambo devoted six years in preparing this work, reviewing all of the published and most of the unpublished studies on the Rambo and allied families. She developed during this time a nationwide network of useful informants and made extensive analysis of original wills, deeds and church records to document her study. As a result her book ranks among the best of the genealogies yet written about the first settlers of New Sweden in the 17th century.

Previous writers have claimed that Peter Gunnarsson Rambo was of French, English, Scottish, Wendish or Finnish origin. Mrs. Rambo debunks these claims, which will come as a disappointment to those who cherish the Rambeaux coat of arms. While the precise location of Rambo's origin in Sweden has yet to be determined, his Swedish roots are adequately documented in this book.

The author uses a numbering system for the descendants of Peter Rambo which is easy to follow and which makes relationships easy to trace. She also includes several Rambo lines whose place in the family tree has yet to be verified. Because Rambo daughters married

descendants of other early Swedish settlers (Anders Bengtsson, Peter Mattsson, Matthias Holstein, John Hendrickson, Rev. Andreas Rudman, Rev. Andreas Sandel, Peter Cock III, Åke Helm, to name a few), this book will long be an invaluable reference for historians and genealogists interested in the colonial years of Pennsylvania, West Jersey and Delaware, where these families initially lived. As the generations unfold, one gets a fascinating picture of the peopling of America by the many descendants of Peter Rambo who pushed southward and westward with the expanding American frontier.

PETER STEBBINS CRAIG  
Washington, D.C.

**Släkten Trägårdh från Köpenhamn.** By Kurt G. Trägårdh. Published in Stockholm 1986, mimeographed, soft covers. Ill. with photographs as well as six genealogical charts. 186 pp., \$30.00.

Major Kurt G. Trägårdh, the author of the article in this issue of *Swedish American Genealogist* dealing with "Sven Trägårdh, Swedish Labor Leader and Emigrant," but not related to him, has recently published an impressive volume on the Danish Trägårdh family, of which he, himself, is a member. Earlier the author produced the monumental work on the Trägårdh family in Skåne, published in Stockholm in 1978.

In the present volume Major Trägårdh has sought to go back more than 400 years in order to trace this family back a total of thirteen generations, of which three are still living. Though the family had its genesis in Denmark, most of its members have lived in Sweden, except for the oldest branch, descended from a Swedish sailor who emigrated to Capetown, South Africa in 1742. This family which used a variety of spellings of the family surname—Tregardt, Trichard, Triecharde, Triegaardt and Triegard, has copious descendants in that part of the world including one of its national heroes, a pioneer or "vortrekker," Louis Trichardt, in whose honor a monument has been erected outside of Pretoria, South Africa.

In addition to members of the family having lived in various parts of Europe, at least two representatives came to the U.S. In 1836 Anton Herman Trägårdh, a coppersmith in Göteborg, born there 3 June 1814, arrived in America, where he lived for a while in Charleston, SC, New Orleans, LA and in 1848 joined the U.S. Army in its War with Mexico. He called himself Charles H. Trägårdh in the U.S. but it is not known where and when he died or whether he married and had a family.

His brother, John Edward Trägårdh, a year older, arrived in America two years after his brother, visited him in Charleston and then went off to New York, where he demonstrated his skill in pyrotechnics in the 4 July 1843 celebration in New York, so clever that it was described in the newspapers of that day. He stayed in the U.S. eight years, returned to Göteborg, where he became a highly successful industrialist.

The author is to be congratulated on the scholarly and highly interesting account he has given us of the Trägårdh family from Copenhagen. He has added an excellent index as well as an exhaustive bibliography.

—N.W.O.

**Svenska släktkalenderns Personregister 1912-1982, (Index to the Swedish Family Register 1912-1982)** ed. by Ullagreta Carlsson (Stockholm 1986), cloth, 632 pp.

For more than a century and a quarter Swedish genealogists have had access to some excellent biographical dictionaries. The Swedish nobility was well treated by the appearance in 1858-1861 of Gabriel Anrep's pioneer work, *Svenska adelns ättartavlor*, which was then followed in 1925-1936 by Gustaf Elgenstierna's mammoth work, *Den introducerade svenska adelns ättartavlor*.

For commoners the very same people were equally industrious. Anrep brought out his excellent *Svensk släktkalender* in three volumes 1871-1875, which treated more than 100 Swedish families. Unfortunately, no comprehensive index exists for this valuable work.

Another Swedish pioneer genealogist was Lars Magnus Victor Örnberg (1839-1908) who during his lifetime published no less than fourteen volumes, beginning in 1884 and ending in 1908, the year of his death. The first four volumes were entitled *Svensk släktkalender*, while the remaining eight volumes were named *Svenska ättartal*. For this highly valuable work Gustaf



Clemensson, at one time district archivist for the Göteborg District Archives, published a comprehensive *Register* in 1939, reprinted in 1976 by the Archives in Göteborg.

Four years after Örnberg's death, Gustaf Elgenstierna began publishing *Svenska släktkalendern*, a contemporary biographical register of some of the more well-known Swedish commoner families. When Elgenstierna died in 1948 his daughter continued the work and edited the final Elgenstierna volume in 1950. There was an hiatus for more than a decade, but then a committee was appointed to seek ways of continuing this highly useful work.

The first volume of the new series appeared in 1962 and since that year a number of volumes have been published. The immensity of this work, however, was such that it soon became apparent to the publication committee that a comprehensive index to all the published volumes was a priority item.

The editorial board of *Svenska släktkalendern* asked its editor, Ullagreta Carlsson, to undertake this mammoth task and in 1986 the long-awaited index was ready. It is a gigantic work encompassing more than 65,000 names of those who have appeared in all of the volumes published across a time span of seventy years.

The Swedish genealogical community is well served in having this new research tool at its command. The editor and the editorial board of *Svenska släktkalendern* is to be commended for giving us all an easy access to the treasures buried in the *Register's* volumes.

—N.W.O.

**Sveriges Adelskalender 1986 (The Who's Who of Swedish Nobility)**, edited by the Board of Governors of the Swedish House of Nobles (*Riddarhuset*) (Stockholm 1986), 97th edition, cloth, 754 pp.

This popular and highly useful biographical dictionary of the Swedish nobility has been in existence since 1854, when Gabriel Anrep brought out the first edition. He continued this effort until 1903 with the 27th edition. It was then continued by Adam Lewenhaupt Claës Lewenhaupt and lastly by Gustaf Elgenstierna. In 1949 the Board of Governors of the House of Nobles decided to assume the responsibility of publishing the volume. It now appears every third year.

The volume lists each family of the nobility together with a short introductory paragraph as to the family's history and with an illustration of its coat of arms. Then follows a listing of those members who were living at the time the volume went to press. In contrast to its Danish counterpart, it thus becomes a contemporary listing, whereas the Danish book of nobility traces back each family generation by generation.

A total of 621 noble families are listed in the 97th edition, i.e. those which have been accepted as bona fide members of *Riddarhuset*. Those families not having taken their seats in the institution are not listed. Of these 621 families, 47 have the rank of count, 124 the rank of baron and the remaining 450 are nobles entitled to a seat in the House. Of the 621 families, there are 48 which are extinct in the male line.

Of the 16,000 family members who have reached the age of majority, 58% answered the triennial questionnaires mailed out to the members.

Of interest to the Americans is the fact that so many of the families are represented in the U.S. In addition, no less than 65 families have branches in the U.S. This does not include those branches which have not bothered to inform *Riddarhuset* of their existence. Here we find American families who settled in the U.S. as early as the beginning of the 19th century, i.e. the Wästfelt (Westfeldt) family of Charleston, SC and New Orleans, LA. The Reenstiernas first appeared in Charleston, SC during the time of the Civil War. The Swedish family with more representatives in the U.S. than most any other is the Uggla family. Other families with branches in the U.S. are the following—Armfelt, Belfrage, Bergengren, Granfelt, Gyllenhammar, Hammarskjöld, Hermelin, Krusenstjerna, Kuylenstierna, which uses the surname Uhr, Natt och Dag, which in U.S. uses the names De Remeé and Dagg, Odencrants, Philp, Ramsay, Roos af Hjelsäter, Rydingsvärd, which has anglicized its name to Rydingsword, von Schantz, Schaumann, Skytte af Sätra, in the U.S. known as Scott, also Stenfelt, Taube, Toll, Treffenberg and Wendel, which in the U.S. spells its name Wendell.

This handsome volume includes 12 illustrations of prominent members of some families, including the oldest living member of *Riddarhuset*, who in 1986 was 102 years old as well as the present Swedish Ambassador to the U.S.—Count Wilhelm Wachtmeister.

—N.W.O.

**Den sägenomspunna släkten. Om Håbolssläkten från Dalsland.** By Jan Vegelius. Published by Infograf and the Håbol Family Association (Uppsala 1987). Large octavo, measuring 8 1/2 x 11 1/2 in. Hard cover, 821 pp. For information regarding the family and orders for the volume, write Prof. Jan Vegelius, P.O. Box 513, 751 20 Uppsala, SWEDEN.

Here is a family history which shall long remain as a standard for family histories. Prof. Vegelius has accomplished a magnificent task, tracing virtually all the descendants of the Håbol Family in the western Swedish province of Dalsland. Though he is mainly responsible for coordinating this volume, he has had the help and assistance of a number of local authorities as well as already published works dealing with this very interesting and fascinating province.

Though published in Swedish Dr. Vegelius has been farsighted enough to inject English wherever possible. Thus there is a preface in English and when he deals with American descendants he has been able to use English terms whenever it has helped to identify an individual. Occasionally he will include introductory essays in English, also translated into Swedish. One such example is the story of "Axel Peterson —the Indian Teacher" on page 348, written by a son, Dr. Martin Peterson (1897-1986) of Natick, MA.

Of particular value to the American reader is an English version of chapter 4, "On Our Family and On this Book," to be found on page 59. This essay covers five pages and gives an excellent introduction to the family and how to use the volume.

Dr. Vegelius has succeeded in documenting a total of 3,227 families belonging to the Håbol clan. Of these 59.8% lived in Sweden in 1931; 20.1% in Norway and 18.9% in the U.S. Of the 609 families residing in the U.S., no less than 194 lived in Minnesota, 52 in California and 41 in Illinois.

The author has organized the work of tracing the members of the Håbol clan into a total of 29 branches, plus four branches who have been lost. He has assigned a letter to each branch and within each branch each family has been given a separate code. The system seems simple and effective and is easy to follow.

Dr. Vegelius is Professor of statistics at the University of Uppsala and one would expect from him a solid and well researched presentation. He has not disappointed us. For every family listed he cites the source of that information, whether it arises from archival sources in Sweden or from correspondents in Sweden, Norway and the U.S.

Håbolssläkten is a fantastic product which impresses and startles. Seemingly nothing has been left out. The volume is profusely illustrated, not only with pictures of individuals, old homesteads and tombstones, but includes a set of maps of the areas in question. Dr. Vegelius has not only printed genealogical charts to guide the reader but has even included the music of some of the old ballads from the province which he has deemed important to include in a collection of this type.

Of interest to persons belong to the Håbol clan in the U.S. it should be mentioned that a society, the Håbol Family Association, exists with a total of 740 members, of which 39 reside in the U.S.

Dr. Vegelius and all of his correspondents should be congratulated on the production of this very handsome but also very useful family history.

—N.W.O.

**A History of the Original Settlements on the Delaware . . . & A History of Wilmington** by Benjamin Ferris, originally published in 1846, reprinted by Gateway Press, Inc., Baltimore, MD in 1987. With a surname index compiled by the members of the Delaware Genealogical Society. Cloth, 322 pp. \$25.00 plus \$1.50 mailing costs. Orders should be addressed to Delaware Genealogical Society, 505 Market Street Mall, Wilmington, DE 19801.

Benjamin Ferris' volume on the first settlements on the Delaware has been out of print for a long time. It is therefore with particular pleasure that we welcome a reprint of this valuable source book on the Swedish settlements in the Delaware Valley, particularly at this juncture in time, when the nation is commemorating the 350th anniversary of this event. Students of the colonial history of Delaware, New Jersey, Maryland and Pennsylvania may now have ready access to this classic. Of added value is the inclusion of a surname index prepared by the members of the Delaware Genealogical Society, using the prepared notes by Helen Zippe.

It should be noted that Ferris published his volume barely fifteen years after the demise of Nicholas Collin, the last Swedish clergyman to serve the Gloria Dei Church in Wicaco in Philadelphia. In preparing his volume Ferris had access to sources which were very close to the final phase of the Swedish church activity in Pennsylvania and Delaware.

Ferris divided his work into two sections, the first dealing with the early Swedish colonization, the latter section dealing with the early history of the city of Wilmington. Ferris made copious use of original sources, found in New York City as well as Albany, NY. For the history of Wilmington the author expresses his appreciation for help from the city authorities. Ferris is probably weakest when it comes to the Swedish sources. He quotes extensively from Jehu Curtis Clay's *Annals of the Swedes on the Delaware*, first published in Philadelphia in 1835. Clay had succeeded Nicholas Collin as rector of the Philadelphia parish. Also he gives credit to the vestrymen and church wardens of the Gloria Dei Church for the liberal use of the church records. What one misses of course are the original sources in Sweden, which were beyond the pale of Ferris.

For the genealogist, particularly for the person who can trace his forebears back to Philadelphia and Delaware in colonial times, Ferris has much to offer. He devotes several pages to reproducing gravestone inscriptions of deceased Swedes and their descendants. He also reproduces the famous list of Swedish families residing in New Sweden in 1693, taken from Clay's account, who in turn had copied it from Thomas Campanius Holm's *Kort beskrifning om Provincien Nya Swerige uti America*, published in Stockholm in 1702.

—N.W.O

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