

6-1-2017

## Genealogy Hall of Fame: Peter S. Craig

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### Recommended Citation

(2017) "Genealogy Hall of Fame: Peter S. Craig," *Swedish American Genealogist*. Vol. 37 : No. 2 , Article 15.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.augustana.edu/swensonsag/vol37/iss2/15>

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## Peter S. Craig now in Genealogy Hall of Fame

Beginning in 1986, the National Genealogy Hall of Fame program, administered by the National Genealogical Society, has honored outstanding genealogists whose achievements in the field of American genealogy have had a great impact on our field.

This year, Peter Stebbins Craig, whose nomination was made by the American Society of Genealogists and the Swedish Colonial Society, was elected to the National Genealogy Hall of Fame.

Peter Stebbins Craig, a devoted historian and relentless genealogist, specialized in publishing genealogies of the first European settlers of southeastern Pennsylvania, Delaware, and New Jersey. This settlement, better known as New Sweden, began in 1638 along both sides of the Delaware River.

Craig was born in Brooklyn, New York, on 30 September 1928 and died in Washington, D.C., on 26 November 2009. His pioneering research and significant publications on the early Swedish settlers in the Delaware Valley earned him fellowships from both the American Society of Genealogists and the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania in 1991. In recognition of his contributions to Swedish history, King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden bestowed on him the title of Knight First Class of the Royal Order of the Polar Star in 2002. He was awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award in 2009 by the Swedish Colonial Society in Philadelphia.

He was the founder of the journal *Swedish Colonial News*, published by the Swedish Colonial Society. There he published dozens of his articles on Swedish and Finnish families in southeastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey. He served as both historian and genealogist for the Society. He also chaired the publication committee that initiated the Gloria Dei Church records series titled Colonial Records of the Swedish Churches in Pennsylvania. Now in six volumes, this indispensable reference work details the church records for the years 1646-1768. He left his extensive research collection including books and monographs to the Society. They are adding his research, "The Craig Collection," to the Society's website.

As contributing editor for *Swedish American Genealogist*, he published numerous articles. Especially notable are his "New Sweden Settlers," an eight-part series that ran from 1996 to 1999, and "The 1693 Census of Swedes on the Delaware," a series published 1989 to 1991.

Peter Craig received his BA from Oberlin College in 1950 and his law degree from Yale Law School in 1953. Prior to his career in genealogy, he was a lawyer specializing in railway law in various private and government positions. He worked on the boards of the Swedish Colonial Society and the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania and often lectured on the "Antient Swedes."

This year's nomination was submitted by the American Society of Genealogists with supporting recognition by the Swedish Colonial Society and the editor of the *Swedish American Genealogist*.

### Editor's note:

Peter Craig was for many years a participant of the yearly SAG Workshop at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. We did not see so much of him as he devoted his time there to microfilms of early American documents, but he always held a lecture on something related to the "Old Swedes."

His series of articles on "The 1693 Census of Swedes on the Delaware" was published in book form in 1993 by SAG Publications of Winter Park, FL.

In 1999 the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania published his "1671 Census of the Delaware."

The Swedish Colonial Society also tells this about the Craig Collections, which is still undergoing digitalization – a long-term effort:

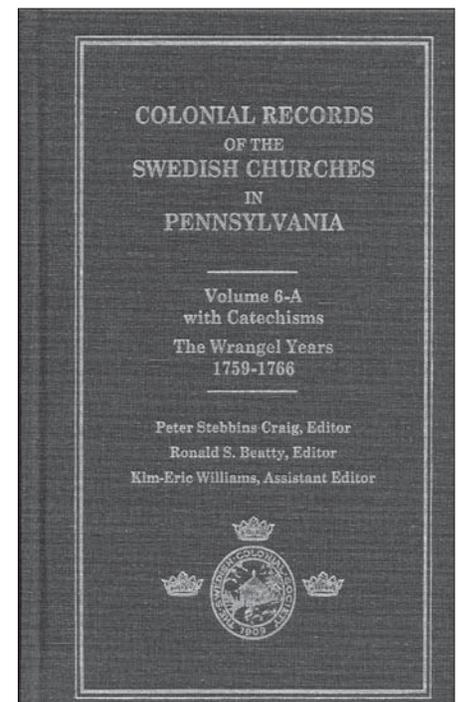
**"Craig Collection Online.** Dr Craig's work papers and correspondence form the bulk of the Craig Collection.

"If you are an SCS member, you can now order a custom package of family group sheets (FGSs) showing all the detail around your earliest Swedish colonial ancestors. You may order FGSs from a known line so you can study your family in detail (e.g., the Mounce Rambo package already posted), or FGSs for heads of family all



bearing the same full name so you can confirm which is a suspected ancestor. We plan to add more such packages of FGSs as well as other materials. It is our hope that these resources will facilitate the process by which members of The Swedish Colonial Society apply for forefather status as descendants of Swedish colonists who arrived in the thirteen colonies before the end of the Revolutionary War in 1783."

The web address for the Swedish Colonial Society is found on p. 26.



The insignia of the Order of the Polar Star.