

Conference, "New Sweden Colony," University of Delaware in March 1988

The University of Delaware plans to host a conference in March 1988 to commemorate the 350th anniversary of the establishment of the New Sweden Colony in 1638. The conference will be co-sponsored by a number of organizations including the Swedish-American Council, the Historical Society of Delaware, the New Jersey Historical Commission, the American Swedish Museum, and the Swedish government. We will be inviting the participation of scholars from the United States, Sweden, Finland and possibly other nations whose research interests focus on American colonial history and on the history of seventeenth century Europe, particularly on Sweden, Finland, and the Netherlands. Our goal is to encourage the cross-fertilization of scholarship among researchers who live and work in different nations and who approach history from various perspectives. We hope to include consideration of topics such as population studies, the dissemination of material culture and technology, community life, relations with native peoples, inter-colonial rivalries, and the national development of the relevant European countries. We expect to publish the proceedings and hope that our efforts will increase awareness among

American colonial and European scholars in the significance of the Swedish experience in seventeenth century America.

We are especially interested to encourage the Finnish scholars to take part in the conference because of the great importance of the Finnish settlers who took part in founding the New Sweden Colony and we hope that the conference will provide you with an opportunity to exchange information and views with leading scholars from both the United States and Sweden. Please contact Olavi Koivukangas at the Migration Institute, Piispankatu 3, 20500 Turku 50, Finland (921-17536 or 921-14182) to learn more about our plans. If you want to participate in the conference, let me know by letter of your intention and of the topic you want to discuss so that I might include you in the scheduling plans.

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