

1) web page: "The Mattson & Dalbo Families of West Jersey" by Dr. Peter S. Craig.  
Copied 19 May 2007 from the website of The Swedish Colonial Society,  
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## The Mattson & Dalbo Families of West Jersey

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 originally published in *Swedish Colonial News*,  
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Three hundred years ago in 1700, Rev. Andreas Rudman reported in his book of burials the death of **Elisabeth Dalbo**, aged 78, "born in Sweden, Anders Dalbo's widow, previously married to Matts Hansson."

Elisabeth died at the home of her youngest son in Gloucester Co., NJ. She had been a 19-year-old bride when she arrived in New Sweden in 1641, yet by 1671 she was twice a widow and lived for the remainder of her life with her youngest son, Olof Dalbo. Through her three married sons, she had 25 known grand-children and at least 114 great grand-children.

Her first husband was **Matts Hansson**, who was hired to be a gunner at Fort Christina. They departed from Stockholm on the *Charitas* among a group of new settlers that included Hansson's brother, Anders Hansson. After five years of service at Fort Christina, Matts Hansson became a freeman on 1 December 1646. Like other freemen, he soon became unhappy with Governor Printz's harsh treatment of the settlers. On 27 July 1653, he and his brother joined other freemen in filing a complaint with the Governor. Printz, however, branded the complaint a "mutiny" and left for Sweden, leaving the colony under the rule of his son-in-law Johan Papegoja, threatening to take legal action against the mutineers on his return.

Fearing for their lives, many of the freemen who had signed the complaint fled New Sweden in the fall of 1653. Anders Hansson made it safely to Kent Island in the Chesapeake Bay, but Matts Hansson did not. Papegoja hired Indians to bring back the escapees, dead or alive. Two of the freemen were overtaken and killed, with the Indians bringing back their heads on stakes. One of those killed was Matts Hansson.

Widow Hansson returned safely to New Sweden with her two small sons. She then married her second husband **Anders Larsson Dalbo** from Dalsland, Sweden who had been sent to the New Sweden colony on the *Kalmar Nyckel* in 1640 as punishment for a minor crime. After seven years of servitude, he secured employment with the New Sweden company as a provost (sheriff) on 1 Nov. 1647 at a wage of 15 guilders per month and served in this capacity until Printz's departure in 1653. In 1654 he became a freeman. Two years later, when the Swedes were permitted to select their own government by the Dutch, Dalbo was named lieutenant of the Swedish militia. He made his home in Kingsessing, but died before 1671, when the first English census identified Widow Dalbo as the head of household there.

By her two husbands, Elisabeth had four sons and, through them, 25 grand-children, two of whom became wives of Gloria Dei's first pastors - Andreas Rudman and Andreas Sandel.

1. **Peter Mattson**, alias Peter Dalbo, was born in New Sweden in 1647. When the first English patent was issued for Widow Dalbo's Kingsessing plantation in 1671, it was issued in the name of Peter Dalbo, her eldest son.

On 16 February 1674 Peter Mattson married Catharina Rambo, daughter of Peter Gunnarsson Rambo. They settled on new land adjoining her father's plantation in Passyunk, on the east side of the Schuylkill, where they lived for ten years. In 1684, however, they moved to Little Mantua Creek in Gloucester Co., which remained their home until Peter's death in 1699. He was survived by his wife and nine children:

- Brita Mattson, born in 1674, died in 1750 in Christiana Hundred, New Castle Co.; married John Hendrickson, son of Hendrick Jacobsson, by 1695 and had 8 children (Catharina, Elisabeth, Peter, Maria, Brita, John, Sarah & Susannah).
- Elisabeth Mattson, born 7 February 1678, died in September 1736 at Piles Grove, Salem Co.; married Rev. Andreas Rudman 4 May 1698 and had 2 sons who died in childhood and 2 daughters who later married (Gertrude Magdalena & Anna Catharine).
- Catharina Mattson, born 29 December 1679, died after 1728 [place unknown]; married c. 1702 John Cock, son of Eric Cock, and had three known children (Peter, a daughter & John).
- Maria Mattson, born 11 May 1682, died in Sweden, 5 February 1739; married Rev. Andreas Sandel, 22 February 1704, and had 10 children (Magdalena, Peter, Peter, Anders, Anders, John, Benjamin, Andreas, Samuel & Magnus).
- Peter Mattson, born 27 May 1685, died in September 1735 in Deptford Township, Gloucester Co.; married c. 1710 Catharina Bankson, daughter of Anders Bankson and Gertrude Rambo; and had 5 children (Anders, Peter, Maria, John & Matthias).
- Matthias Mattson, born 12 August 1688, died 5 October 1750 in Greenwich Township, Gloucester Co.; married in 1712 Judith Swanson, daughter of Olof Svensson and Lydia Ashman, and had 6 children (Peter, Catharina, Lydia, Maria, Matthias & Olof/William).
- Margaret Mattson, born 1 February 1692, died about 1748 in Passyunk, Philadelphia Co.; married Peter Cock, son of Peter Cock and Helena Helm, c. 1716 and had 4 children (Helena, Israel, Rebecca & Margaret).
- John Mattson, born 14 June 1694, died 11 September 1739 in Greenwich Township, Gloucester Co.; married 1 May 1717 Annika Cock, daughter of Eric Cock, and had 5 children (John, Eric, Peter, Elizabeth & Israel).
- Jacob Mattson, born 25 May 1697, died in the 1740s; married [1] Lydia Culin, daughter of Jacobus van Culin, 29 April 1724, 1 child (Mary Brigitta); [2] Maria Runnels, 20 January 1733, 4 children (Anna Catharine, Jonas Abraham, Jacob & Maria).

2. **John Mattson**, alias John Dalbo, was born in New Sweden c. 1649. By 1673 he had married Maria Lom, youngest daughter of Måns Svensson Lom, and owned 1/4 of the Moyamensing tract south of Wicaco. He sold his share in 1684 and acquired land on Great Mantua Creek, Gloucester Co., where he died in 1701, survived by 7 children:

- Anna Mattson, born c. 1674, died 10 June 1721 in Gloucester Co.; married c. 1692 Staffan Jönsson alias Stephen Jones, son of Anders Jönsson Ekoren, and had 6 known children (Andrew, John, Jonas, Catharina, Joseph & Abraham).
- Matthias Mattson, born c. 1676, died unmarried in 1701.
- Måns Mattson, born c. 1678, died c. 1706; married c. 1703 Elizabeth (parents not identified) and had 1 child (Maria).
- Anders Mattson, born c. 1680, died c. 1734 in lower Greenwich Township, Gloucester Co.; married c. 1712 Maria Culin, daughter of Jacobus van Culin, and had 5 children (Maria, Rebecca, Matthias, Andrew & Peter).
- Gertrude Mattson, born c. 1682, died after 1727 in Piles Grove, Salem Co.; married c. 1702 Lawrence Holstein, son of Matthias Claesson Holstein and Helena [?] Cock, and had 9 children (Maria, Matthias, Sarah, Catharine, Andrew, Susanna, John, Lawrence & Elisabeth).
- Brigitta Mattson, born c. 1686, died 6 Nov. 1726 at Repaupo Creek, Gloucester Co.; married c. 1706 Eric Steelman, son of Hans Månsson and Ella Stille, and had 7 children (Helena, Brigitta, Eric, Catharina, Maria, Hans & Charles).
- Maria Mattson, born c. 1690, died in Lower Penns Neck, Salem Co., after 1745; married William Philpot as his second wife, 27 February 1717, and had 6 children (Nicholas, Thomas, Mary, William, Joseph & Francis).

3. **Lars (Lasse) Dalbo**, born in 1657, became the head of the Dalbo household in Kingessing after

his older half-brothers married and moved away. In May 1683, he took a census of Kingsessing for the new William Penn government and, with his brother Olof, helped build a new courthouse and prison for Chester (former Upland). He died unmarried c. 1685.

4. **Olof Dalbo**, born in 1660, joined his half-brother Peter Mattson in the move to Little Mantua Creek in 1684 with his new bride, Catharina Friend, daughter of Nils Larsson Frände and Anna Andersdotter. After the death of his half-brother Peter Mattson, Olof moved to Raccoon Creek, where he was one of the founders of the Swedish log church built at present Swedesboro about 1703. He died in January 1712, survived by his widow and 9 children:

- Anders Dalbo, born c. 1684, died in Upper Penns Neck in December 1748; married by 1712 Magdalena, daughter of Lars Halton and Sarah Jönsson Hutt, and had 9 children (Sarah, Olof, Lars, Anders, Gabriel, Charles, John, Daniel & Israel).
- Lars Dalbo, born c. 1686, died 28 May 1721 in Gloucester Co., unmarried.
- Gabriel Dalbo, born c. 1688, died in Greenwich Township, Gloucester Co., 4 November 1722, unmarried.
- Peter Dalbo, born 1690, died after 1771 in Gloucester Co.; married c. 1721 Catharina, daughter of Andrew Hendrickson and Brigitta Morton, and had 11 children (Helena, Catharina, Rebecca, Gabriel, Sarah, Brigitta, Andrew, Jonas, Peter, Susanna & Dina).
- Charles Dalbo, born c. 1693, died in Gloucester Co. 22 April 1721; married Elsa Runnels, daughter of John Reynolds and Anna Mullica, 11 June 1717, and had 2 children (Maria & Anna Catharine). His widow married Christopher Taylor of Tinicum Island, who took over Charles Dalbo's tavern operations in New Jersey.
- John Dalbo, born c. 1696, died 16 April 1721, unmarried.
- Sarah Dalbo, born c. 1698, died c. 1740 in Piles Grove, Salem Co.; married 20 Oct. 1718 Jonas Keen, son of Matthias Keen and Henricka Claesson, and had 8 children (Sarah, Catharina, Christina, Maria, Matthias, Rebecca, Susanna & William).
- Berthil Dalbo, born c. 1700, died unmarried after 1719.
- Elisabeth Dalbo, born c. 1702, died in Greenwich Township, Gloucester Co., before 1745; married, as his second wife, Åke Helm, 27 December 1728, and had 4 children (Andrew, Gabriel, Åke & Deborah).



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## Sven Gunnarsson and his Swanson Family

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In August 1639, the Swedish government, needing settlers for its New Sweden colony, sent word to the governors of Elfsborg, Dalsland and Värmland to capture deserted soldiers and others who had committed some slight misdemeanor and to send them to America.

Among the "convicts" rounded up in this effort was Sven Gunnarsson. When the *Kalmar Nyckel* left Göteborg in September 1639, he was aboard with his pregnant wife and two small children.

Initially, in New Sweden, Sven was stationed at the Fort Christina plantation, where he was found in 1644 working on the New Sweden tobacco farm. In October 1645 he was finally granted freedom from his servitude and joined other freemen residing at Kingessing (now West Philadelphia). Here he was known as Sven the Miller, as he operated the first gristmill built in New Sweden on present Cobbs Creek.

Being a freeman in New Sweden was like being a peasant under the tyrannical rule of Governor Johan Printz. Like other freemen, Sven was required to work without pay at Printz's Printzhof plantation whenever the Governor demanded, was prohibited from trading with the Indians and forced to buy all necessities at the company store. Like other freemen, he fell heavily into debt. Another such freeman, Lasse Svensson the Finn and his wife Carin had their plantation seized by Printz (who renamed it Printztorp). Both Lasse the Finn and his wife were forced to live without shelter in the woods. Both perished, leaving several impoverished children.

It was not surprising, therefore, that Sven Gunnarsson was one of the 22 freemen signing a petition of grievances which they submitted to Governor Printz in the summer of 1653. Printz called it a "mutiny" and returned to Sweden.

Sven the Miller fared better under Governor Rising, 1654-1655. He even volunteered to help defend Fort Christina against the Dutch invasion. A pitched battle was averted when Rising decided to surrender the colony.

Conditions proved to be even better under Dutch rule. Stuyvesant allowed the Swedes living north of the Christina River to organize their own government. That government, known as the Upland Court, treated Sven Gunnarsson well.

In 1664, Sven Gunnarsson moved with his family across the Schuylkill to Wicaco, a former Indian settlement, where Sven's 1125-acre plantation embraced what would become the future City of Philadelphia. Here, on his land, the first log church at Wicaco (now Gloria Dei Church) was built by 1677. Sven Gunnarsson died about 1678 and probably was one of the first to be buried at the Wicaco church.

In the spring of 1683, Sven's three sons agreed to provide the northern part of Wicaco for William Penn's planned new city, to be called Philadelphia. They were left with 230 acres apiece. Records prove that Sven also had two daughters. His family, in the order of their birth, included:

**1. Sven Svensson** (Swan Swanson), born in Sweden by 1636, married about 1658 Catharina (Carin) Larsdotter, the daughter of Lasse Svensson the Finn. Sven was a justice on the Upland Court, 1681-1682 and served in the Pennsylvania Assembly in 1683. He died at Wicaco in 1696. His widow, born near Stockholm in 1638, was buried at Gloria Dei on 19 August 1720. Their known children:

- Lasse Swanson, born about 1660, died unmarried between 1687 and 1692.
- Brigitta Swanson, born c. 1669, died at Boon's Island, Kingsessing, after 1753. Married Swan Boon c. 1688; 4 children.
- Margaret Swanson, born c. 1671, died 1699 at Passyunk. Married John Larsson Cock in 1694; 2 children.
- Barbara Swanson, born 1674, died at Calcon Hook, Lower Darby, after 1743. Married Hans Boon 1699; 5 children.
- Catharina Swanson, born 1682, died at Wicaco 1711. Married Peter Bankson 1698; 2 children.

**2. Gertrude Svensdotter**, born c. 1638 in Sweden, married the New Sweden soldier Jonas Nilsson in 1654 and died in Kingsessing c. 1695, survived by eleven children:

- Nils Jonasson, born in 1655, died at Aronameck in 1735. Married Christina Gästenberg c. 1683; 8 children.
- Judith Jonasdatter, born c. 1658, died at Manatawny, Berks County in 1727. Married Peter Petersson Yocum by 1676; 10 children.
- Gunilla Jonasdatter, born c. 1661, died in Gloucester County NJ. Married Måns Petersson Cock in 1680; 7 children.
- Måns Jonasson, born 1663, died at Manatawny 1727. Married Ingeborg Lycon c. 1690; 6 children.
- Anders Jonasson, born c. 1666, died at Aronameck 1728. Married Catharina Boon by 1691; 9 children.
- Christina Jonasdatter, born c. 1668, married (1) Frederick King 1686; (2) Nicklas Lindemeyer 1700; 7 children.
- John Jonasson, born c. 1670, died after 1738. Married Catharina Lock 1693; 5 daughters.
- Peter Jonasson, born c. 1673, died after 1697; no known issue.
- Jonas Jonasson, born c. 1675, died at Kingsessing 1738. Married Anne Amesby 1702; 7 children.
- Brigitta Jonasdatter, born 1678, died in Blockley Township 1753. Married Mårten Garrett 1703; 5 children.
- Jonathan Jonasson, born c. 1681, died at Kingsessing 1748. Married Mary; 2 children.

**3. Olle Svensson**, born at sea on the *Kalmar Nyckel* in 1640, married an English woman Lydia Ashman. He served as a justice on the Upland Court, 1673-1680 and died at Wicaco in 1692. His widow Lydia died in New Jersey in 1730. Their eight children:

- John Swanson, born 1667, never married and died in 1736 in Gloucester County NJ.
- Peter Swanson, born 1668, died in 1737. Married Anna Stille; 1 child.
- Maria Swanson, born c. 1676, died at Wicaco in her youth.
- Brigitta Swanson, born 1678, died after 1747 in Gloucester County. Married (1) Peter Gustafsson c. 1696; (2) Jacob Van Culen 1700; 5 children.
- Lydia Swanson, born c. 1680, married Josiah Harper.
- Swan Swanson, born c. 1682, died at Wicaco 1712. Married Maria, but no issue.
- Catharina Swanson, born c. 1686, died in Burlington County NJ. Married James Lacony by 1712.
- Judith Swanson, born 1688, died after 1754 in Gloucester County. Married Matthias Mattson 1712; 6 children.

**4. Anders Svensson**, born in New Sweden c. 1642, died at Wicaco in 1688. He married Anna (parents unknown), who died in 1709. Seven children:

- Gunnar Swanson, born 1667, died 1702, leaving 1/3 of his 50 acres to Gloria Dei Church.

Never married.

- Catharine Swanson, born c. 1669, died c. 1700. Married Andrew Wheeler c. 1689; 4 children.
- Elisabeth Swanson, born c. 1671, died after 1732. Married Peter Larsson Cock c. 1691; 4 children.
- Christina Swanson, born c. 1673, died in Philadelphia's Northern Liberties 1750. Married Måns Gustafsson c. 1693; 8 children.
- Margaret Swanson, born c. 1676, died at Boon's Island by 1719. Married Valentine Cock c. 1696; 4 sons.
- Christopher Swanson, born 1678, died at Wicaco 1735. Married Christina Keen c. 1712; 5 children.
- Andrew Swanson, born 1686, died at Calcon Hook, Lower Darby Township, c. 1735. Married Brigitta Boon c. 1724; 3 children.

5. A **daughter** (name unknown), born in New Sweden after 1644, died in Cecil County MD by 1676. Married Peter Månsson Lom; 1 son.

### Swanson Family Myths

#### **Myth 1: Sven Skute was the father of the three Swanson brothers of Wicaco.**

Relying on the self-styled historian, Betty Cosans-Zebooker, the recent book *The Buried Past; An Archaeological History of Philadelphia* (1992), pages 33 and 222, states that the three Swanson brothers were sons of Sven Skute, whose 1653 patent from Queen Christina embraced their land at Wicaco.

**Facts:** Sven Skute's 1653 patent did not include Wicaco; it was also nullified by Governor Rising in 1654 because it embraced lands west of the Schuylkill which had long been settled by others. Sven Skute had one son, Johan Skute, who lived on the west side of the Schuylkill. Patents for Wicaco, issued by the Dutch and English, confirm that Sven Gunnarsson was the father of the Swanson brothers. Peter Kalm confirmed the same in his 1748-1750 journal.

#### **Myth 2: Claude A. Swanson of Virginia, (1862-1939), Secretary of the Navy under FDR, was a descendant of the Swansons of Wicaco.**

This claim was most recently published in Landelius' *Swedish Place-Names in North America* (1985), page 228.

**Facts:** Claude Swanson's earliest identified Swanson ancestor was William Swanson who was living in Virginia in 1750. Although Sven Gunnarsson had many descendants, the surname of Swanson was continued by only one of his great-grandchildren, Gunnar Swanson, son of Andrew Swanson, Jr. Gunnar's son William Swanson was living in Southwark, Philadelphia County, at the time of the 1790 census.

### Swanson Descendants

Sven Gunnarsson had five proven children, 32 grandchildren and over 120 great-grandchildren. Among his many descendants today are:

1. All members of the du Pont family of Delaware, who can trace their lineage back to Christopher Swanson, son of Andrew.
2. Two officers of the Swedish Colonial Society: Deputy Governor Esther Ann McFarland (via Jonas Jonasson) and Historian Peter S. Craig (via Judith Jonasdotter who married Peter Yocum).







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## Peter Gunnarsson Rambo

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Peter Gunnarsson chose the distinctive surname of Rambo from his place of origin, Hisingen, the northwestern section of Gothenburg, which is dominated by Ramberget (meaning, raven's mountain) with its enchanting view of the Gothenburg harbor.

Born in 1612, Peter Rambo was 27 years old when he sailed to New Sweden as a laborer on the second voyage of the *Kalmar Nyckel* in 1639-40. After becoming a freeman, Peter married Brita Matsdotter from Vasa, Finland, on April 7, 1647. Initially they lived in Kingsessing, but moved by 1669 to Passyunk on the northeast side of the Schuylkill.

During Governor Rising's rule (1654-55), Peter Rambo served on the Governor's Council. He continued to serve as a justice under both Dutch rule (1655-64) and English rule (1664-80).

Peter Rambo had a prosperous farm, which included apple trees grown from seeds he had brought from Sweden. The "Rambo Apple" is still grown in several of the northeastern states.

Peter Rambo's hospitality was well known. Not only was the court occasionally held at his house, but it was also a place where many visitors were welcomed, notable among them William Penn, founder of Pennsylvania.

Peter's wife of over 46 years, Brita Matsdotter, died at their Passyunk plantation on October 12, 1693. Peter Rambo was buried at the Swedes' log church at Wicaco on January 29, 1698, at the age of 85 years and almost eight months.

According to a letter written by Peter Rambo to his sister in Gothenburg in 1693, he had four sons and four daughters. One daughter died at the age of eight. Another daughter (married in 1693 but dead by August 3, 1694, when Peter Rambo revised his will) has not been identified. The six surviving children were:

1. **Gunnar Rambo**, born January 6, 1649, died January 1724 at the age of 75 at "Matzong" in Upper Merion township of present Montgomery County, Pa. Married Anna Cock (daughter of Peter Cock); nine children.
2. **Gertrude Rambo**, born October 19, 1650, died after 1705 in Moyamensing (South Philadelphia). Married on November 22, 1668, to Anders Bengtsson (Andrew Bankson), who drowned in the Delaware River on September 14, 1705; nine children.
3. **Peter Rambo, Jr.**, born June 17, 1653, died December 12, 1729, in his 77th year in Lower Dublin township, Philadelphia County. Married on November 12, 1676, Magdalena Skute (daughter of Captain Sven Skute); seven children.
4. **Catharine Rambo**, born c. 1655, died after 1708 on Little Mantua Creek, Gloucester County, NJ. Married on February 16, 1674, Peter Mattsson (1647-1699), son of Matthias and Elizabeth Hansson and stepson of Anders Dalbo; nine children, including a daughter

Elizabeth (1678-1736) who married the Rev. Andreas Rudman and a daughter Maria (1682-1739) who married the Rev. Andreas Sandel and died in Sweden, where her grandson, Baron John August Sandels (1764-1831), later became a famous general.

5. **Anders** (Andrew) **Rambo**, born 1658, died in 1698 at Passyunk (South Philadelphia). Married c. 1684 Maria (daughter of Peter Cock); six children.
6. **John Rambo**, born 1661, buried October 17, 1741, in Gloucester County, N.J. Married Brigitta (daughter of Peter Cock); 11 children.