

HOLY TRINITY (OLD SWEDES) CHURCH FOUNDATION, INC.
THE HENDRICKSON HOUSE / 606 CHURCH STREET / WILMINGTON, DELAWARE 19801

October 18, 2000

Mr. David Miles Vardiman
707 East Fullview Ave.
Woodland Park, CO 80863

Dear Mr. Vardiman,

In answer to your letter of October 9th, requesting information on the Vardeman (Vardiman, Ver der Mann, etc.) family members, I am pleased to report that some of our records do indeed show that the family was here at least for a little while.

You are right that the name has several spellings and perhaps even some you haven't seen as yet. I will try to always spell the name in the manner in which any particular record has it.

Old Swedes Church in Wilmington was built in 1699. There is no evidence that the Verdemans were here at that time. The only record I can find on John Vardamon is from our library copy of the book "A Calendar of Delaware Wills". I have enclosed a copy of page 19 from this book which shows that John died in 1715 and not 1751 as one of your correspondents mistakenly puts it. So he lived to be 89 years old and not 125. His wife Margaret and his four children, Johannes, Christopher, William and Jane Margrtia(?) are listed. Appoquinimink Creek, by the way, is some distance from the church, perhaps 25 miles or so. This would explain why his presence was not here but possibly in some other church further south. Delaware counties are divided into hundreds, one of which is Appoquinimink. I have enclosed a map of them for your use.

There were two significant early censuses made in this area. The 1671 Census was the first English census of Delaware ordered by the New York governor and includes all taxable persons. The 1693 Census includes only the members of the Swedish church to prove to the authorities in Sweden that there was a sizable group of people here who desired pastoral care. There are no Verdemans in either census, thus they presumably arrived later on.

John's son, William Ver de Man, married Magdalena Petersson here at Old Swedes church on April 21, 1720. I have enclosed copies from our original church records of the four references to Verdeman marriages and baptisms. The records are all in Swedish. For your information, the cover page translates to "Christina Congregation's Church Book from the year after Christ's birth, 1713, for the following time till 1756. This book was given by the former church warden, William Van de Ver, for the use of Christina Church in 1712." Page 106 contains the marriage mentioned above near the bottom of the page. The heading near the middle of the page translates to "Record of Persons Wed in Christina Parish

in the year 1720."

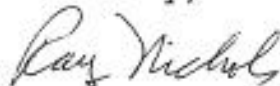
Page 149 lists near the bottom the birth of Wiljam and Magdalena Verdeman's child Maria, born April 1, baptized April 5. Sponsors: The pastor, Herr Magister Samuel Hesselius, Jacob Van de Wer, Maria Smith, Erasmus Stedham's wife, Helena. The page begins the year 1724.

The other two records concern Marget Werdeman. I am not sure whether this might be Jane Margarita or a child of one of her brothers. At any rate, page 211 lists her marriage to James Senexon on January 20, 1730. They had a child baptized here in 1752. After 1750, the records are in a different book which we have only on microfilm and my reader/printer is not able to copy entire pages. Although the page number 814 is not shown and the year 1752 begins on a previous page, the record shows Child Senecce, born 13 April, baptized 10 May, the parents, James Senecce, Margaret Werdeman with sponsors Hans Petersson and Lena Petersson. The Peterssons were a large family with several generations involved here at Old Swedes and it is difficult to sort them all out for there are many first names repeated through the generations.

Old Swede's second pastor, Andrew Hesselius, carefully listed every members name on the records every time they took communion and his brother Samuel, our third pastor carried on this habit while he was here. Magdalena Petersson first appears as a communicant on April 21, 1717 and again for a half dozen times until 1720 when she married William Verdeman. Both their names appear as communicants once in May of 1720, but then not again until 1724 when they were listed in May and in October. While Andrew listed them as William and Magdalena Ver de Man, Samuel wrote them in as Wiljam and Magdalena Werdeman.

In 1754 and in 1764, the new pastors each constructed lists of all the church members. The Verdemans do not appear on either list. I can find no other mention of them in any of our church records or in our library of books. I hope I have helped answer some of your questions. If you have any questions about any of the above please feel free to write and ask. Thank you for the \$10 check.

Sincerely,



Ray Nichols
Archivist