



*John  
Vardeman*

*Research  
Summary*

*June 16, 2015*

## **New Sweden in Delaware, 1638-1655**

In the 1630s Samuel Blommaert, a Dutch merchant, and Peter Minuit, a German of Walloon descent, together resurrected the Swedish trading company *Söderkompaniet* and renamed it *Nya Sverigekompaniet* (the New Sweden Company). The company was funded by Swedish and Dutch investors. This was the start of New Sweden, as it enabled Swedes to emigrate to America and start building the Swedish colony in Delaware.

In 1655, the Swedish colony in Delaware surrendered to Dutch soldiers, making New Sweden part of New Netherlands. Five years later, there were about 73 000 European inhabitants living in colonies on the east coast of America, of which about 500-600 were Swedes. The Swedes that stayed in Delaware, despite the failure of the Swedish colonial project, were able to, without any great changes, carry on as before. There were no restrictions prohibiting them from practicing their religion. The Swedish population actually increased during the second half of the 17th century as several ships arrived with new settlers from Sweden and Finland, even though there was no longer a Swedish colony. The work of the Swedish churches made it possible for Swedish culture and the Swedish language to live on, long after the colony ceased to exist.

New Sweden was from the start the result of a collaborative effort of Germans, Dutchmen and Swedes and the former Swedish colony became part of the Dutch colony. Based on this, it is not impossible that the Vardemans were of Dutch or German descent.

## **Emigration Databases**

I have searched for your ancestor, John Vardeman, in all of the Swedish emigration records. Unfortunately, I have not been able to find him yet, mainly because most of the databases only contain records as of the 1750s or 1800s. I have used the following databases:

- Emihamn: passenger lists for Swedish emigrants from 1869-1950
- Emibas Göteborg: Swedish emigrants from Göteborg [Gothenburg] from the 1750s to 1950
- Emibas Värmland: Swedish emigrants from the province of Värmland
- Emisjö: registered sailors outside of Europe from 1812-1930
- Emipass: passport information of emigrants from 1812-1930
- Emisal: Swedish travellers emigrating via the American Line, between 1915 and 1950

- Emivasa: People who have been or are current members of the Vasa Order in America

Often when emigrating, people's last names are either changed or misspelled, which makes it more difficult to find them. I have therefore searched the records with the following spellings of your last name:

- Vardman/Wardman
- Vardiman/Wardiman
- Vardeman/Wardeman
- Vadman/Wadman
- Verdeman/Werdeman
- Vordeman/Wordeman
- Vardaman/Wardaman
- Verdiman/Werdiman
- Vardemon/Wardemon
- Verdeman/Werdeman

For most of them, I was not able to find anyone with that last name in the Swedish emigration records and have not come across them previously when doing genealogical research for others. The following last names did occur in the records, although at later dates than the emigration of John Vardeman: Vardman/Wardman and Vadman/Wadman. So, it seems like these are two family names that have existed throughout history in Sweden. I found one Vardman family that emigrated from Kalmar at the beginning of the 1900s, one Vadman family emigrating from Skaraborg at the the end of the 19th/beginning of the 20th century, and one Wadman family emigrating from Värmland. I also found a man by the name of Christopher Wardman who was mayor of a town called Vadstena in 1687.

### **Christopher Wardman in Vadstena, Sweden**

John Vardeman is not related to Christopher Wardman, mayor of Vadstena in 1687. Christopher was born in 1656 and had seven children, of which only two reach adult age. Neither of Christopher's two kids Christopher (Jr.) and Per Gideon nor any of his grandchildren match any of the names or dates of John Vardeman's family members. We can therefore rule out that John Vardeman was related to the Wardman family in Vadstena.

### **Antonij Wardeman in Minden, Germany**

I have found records of one Antonij Wardeman in the passenger lists of the Dutch East India Company. He left the Netherlands for Ceylon in 1707. According to the records, Antonij Wardeman came from Minden, located in Germany. Minden became part of Brandenburg-Prussia in 1648 and remained part of Prussia until 1947. This shows that the name Wardeman existed in Germany at the time of the Vardemans' arrival in America.

See link for more information:

<http://vocopvarenden.nationaalarchief.nl/detail.aspx?lang=en&ID=1436730>

### **Jan Jansz Woerdeman in Amsterdam, the Netherlands**

I also found Jan Jasz Woerdeman in a passenger list of the Dutch East India Company. Woerdeman came from Amsterdam and left the Netherlands in 1710 for Batavia (Jakarta, Indonesia). This shows that the name Woerdeman existed in the Netherlands at the time of the Vardemans' arrival in America.

See link for more information:

<http://vocopvarenden.nationaalarchief.nl/detail.aspx?lang=en&ID=1408259>

### **Conclusions**

It is not yet possible to rule out the possibility that the Vardemans are of Swedish descent, although they have not been found in the records as of now. The only variations of the name that can be found in the Swedish emigration records are Vardman/Wardman and Vadman/Wadman. The name Wardeman, however, has been found in Dutch records, belonging to a German, and thus proving the existence of the name in Germany at the time of the Vardemans' arrival in America. The name Woerdeman has also been found in Dutch records, proving the existence of the name in the Netherlands at the time of the Vardeman's arrival in America.

## Next steps

I therefore propose a continuation of the research following the steps outlined below. Hopefully, this will bring us closer to ruling out or finding the true origins of the Vardeman family.

- Finding and reviewing Swedish emigration records from the beginning of the 18th century
- Researching the Swedish Vardman/Vadman families found through the emigration search:
  - Vardman family that emigrated from Kalmar at the beginning of the 1900s
  - Vadman family emigrating from Skaraborg at the the end of the 19th/beginning of the 20th century,
  - Wadman family emigrating from Värmland
  - Wardman family in Öland, late 19th century
  - Wadman family in Kumla, 1660s
- Checking the 1693 census of the Swedes on the Delaware to find if there was any previous connection to the Vardeman's before John emigrated to America
- Exploring the Wardeman family in Minden, Germany
- Exploring the Woerdeman family in Amsterdam, the Netherlands